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# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

*Avian studies in the Mid-Atlantic region*



## *“The Pelagic Issue”* Part 1

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# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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**Cover: Participants aboard the *Thelma Dale IV* on the See Life Paulagics 28 August 2004 pelagic trip to Maryland waters, sailing out of Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware. Photographed by George Jett©.**

## **Editor's Note**

Welcome to the spring 2018 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. The journal received such a large response to the request for pelagic articles, that both the spring and fall 2018 issues will be devoted to pelagic birds and birding.

### **Spring 2018: The Pelagic Issue, Part 1**

Maryland has a rich pelagic history. Maryland's most renowned pelagic pioneer was Richard A. Rowlett. His accomplishments are detailed by Phil Davis, and Rich is presented with the first Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee Field Excellence Award. Jay Sheppard reports on open ocean roosting by Snow Geese. Paul Guris documents Maryland's first Trindade Petrel, and Matt Hafner and Mikey Lutmerding do likewise for Maryland's first Masked Booby. Paul O'Brien tackles the intricacies of the Band-rumped Storm-Petrel complex in Maryland. In addition to the pelagic-oriented articles, Marilyn Veek summarizes the 2017 Maryland May Count, and Chuck Stirrat summarizes the 2017 Maryland Fall Count. Diane Ford's marvelous artwork rounds out this issue.

### **Fall 2018: The Pelagic Issue, Part 2**

Phil Davis conducts a historical survey of pelagic records from the Royal Navy Birdwatching Society. Gene Scarpulla summarizes his two years of running pelagic trips out of Ocean City, Maryland. Jan Reese and Jeff Sullivan document published pelagic species reports in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Both 2018 issues highlight the diversity of seabirds and seabirding opportunities in Maryland. So, get out and go seabirding! See *Life Paulagics* routinely runs pelagic trips to Maryland waters. For additional information about these trips, visit <http://paulagics.com/>. See you on the High Seas!

Eugene J. Scarpulla  
Editor  
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**P.S.:** Do you have a potential article or note for *Maryland Birdlife*, but are apprehensive about submitting it? If so, please contact me and I can easily work with you and walk you through the process.

**P.S.S.:** *Maryland Birdlife* is always looking for artists who would like to have their artwork featured in the journal. Please contact me if you might be interested in showcasing your artwork.

*Maryland Birdlife* 67(1):2–23

**The Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee Presents the First  
Richard A. Rowlett Field Excellence Award  
to Richard A. Rowlett**

Phillip C. Davis

2549 Vale Court, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035; pdavis@ix.netcom.com

[Editor's note: This article is a shortened summary of a much, much larger document. The full document can be found on the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee blog at <https://tinyurl.com/RARowlett>.]

**Abstract:** This article documents the genesis and first issuance of an award by the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) to recognize and express deep appreciation for regional field work and documentation, by a Maryland/District of Columbia field birder. This first award is presented to Richard A. Rowlett, for whom the award will be permanently named. Rowlett's bird-related history, his records, publications, and accomplishments while in the Middle Atlantic region are compiled and chronicled. Also summarized are Rowlett's ornithological experiences before he moved to the Maryland area and his ensuing ornithological career after leaving Maryland. Rowlett's ornithological observations and publications were extensive; this paper compiles references from many varied sources and integrates them into this compendium.

## BACKGROUND

The Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) is a standing committee of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS). The *Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia* (Stewart and Robbins 1958) was used as a baseline document for rare and unusual species. In the period between 1958 and 1982 the responsibility to approve and publish rarity records fell on the editors of the regional seasonal reports in MOS's *Maryland Birdlife*, the Audubon Naturalist Society's *Atlantic Naturalist*, and the National Audubon Society's *American Birds*. After the MD/DCRC was established, the committee began to identify and conduct reviews of "historical" observational reports to include the pre-1983 period.

## THE MOS MD/DCRC FIELD EXCELLENCE AWARD

### Historical Perspective

Numerous field birders have contributed to the observation and identification of rare and unusual avian species in Maryland and the District of Columbia since regional ornithological records were first documented. Notable in the very early history of Maryland and the District of Columbia records, beginning with John James Audubon, and continuing to the era of Robert E. Stewart and Chandler S. Robbins, were individuals such as Elliot Coues, Robert Ridgway, Frank Kirkwood, Hervey Brackbill, and many others. From the time of the publication of Stewart and Robbins (1958) to the present, hundreds of field birders have provided invaluable support to the mission of the MD/DCRC by describing, photographing, and collecting rare and unusual taxa in our region; however, a small number of these observers are especially notable for the quality and quantity of the documentation they ultimately provided to the committee and for their documented observations and educational activities to further our understanding the avifauna of our region. These people deserve special recognition.

### Purpose

The purpose of the MD/DCRC Field Excellence Award is to publicly acknowledge and extend the appreciation of the MOS and the MD/DCRC to birders who have materially and significantly supported furtherance of the MD/DCRC mission by documenting rare and unusual taxa. The documentation considered include photographs and written submissions directly to the MD/DCRC and articles published in *Maryland Birdlife* and other regional ornithological journals. Additional criteria include community education and State-wide contributions. A secondary objective of this award is to encourage similar levels of support from current and emerging birders.

This award is envisioned to be issued only occasionally. This award can recognize active birders as well as those who are no longer active in the field and the award may be issued posthumously.

### Process

Candidates may be nominated by the members of the MD/DCRC prior to an MD/DCRC Annual Meeting. If multiple candidates are nominated, the committee will select only a single recipient. Selectees must receive at least two-thirds of the votes of eligible voting committee members at an MD/DCRC Annual Meeting. The committee will attempt to present the award at the next MOS Conference, MOS Board of Directors meeting, or a local MOS chapter meeting.

### Award Name

The permanent name of this award will be taken from the first recipient. This award is now perpetually named the “Richard A. Rowlett Maryland Ornithological Society - Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee Field Excellence Award.”

### **THE FIRST AWARDEE (2018): RICHARD A. ROWLETT**

The committee is pleased to announce that the initial awardee of the Maryland Ornithological Society - Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee Field Excellence Award is Richard A. Rowlett (Figure 1). Unless actively birding in the region in the 1970s, few current MOS birders will personally know “Rich” and many others will probably not even know of him since he moved from our area in 1980; however, Rowlett had a profound impact on the knowledge of the avifauna of Maryland and the entire Middle Atlantic region. Rowlett was an extremely avid and productive birder who searched out and documented rarities, both in writing and photographically, and published his findings. Although primarily well-known for his pioneering seabird-related activities, he was also an avid land birder throughout Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic region. There was not a Maryland records committee in the 1970s therefore, Rowlett never interfaced directly with the MD/DCRC until afterwards. However, Rowlett contributed many key regional records and published many articles in *Maryland Birdlife* and other regional journals. Some of his not previously published documentation was subsequently acquired and reviewed by the MD/DCRC in the late 1990s. Although living out-of-state in the 1990s, at the committee’s request, he kindly searched his personal archives, located, and provided many unpublished historical photographic slides to the committee.

The inscription for this first award reads:

**“The First Richard A. Rowlett Maryland Ornithological Society -  
Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee Field  
Excellence Award**

“This award is presented to Richard A. Rowlett to acknowledge his outstanding field work and to extend the appreciation of the Maryland Ornithological Society’s Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee for his excellent contributions to the committee’s mission by broadening our knowledge of rare and unusual regional bird species during the decade of the 1970s. His considerable contributions include extensive written and photographic rarity documentation, research articles published on regional species identification and range limits, many educational contributions, and, especially, his pioneering of

Maryland Atlantic Ocean pelagic waters birding. This award is hereby perpetually named in honor of its first recipient, Richard A. Rowlett.

“Maryland Ornithological Society, Barbara Johnson, President, 2018  
Matt Hafner, Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee,  
Chair, 2018”



**Figure 1. Richard A Rowlett.** Photo from Scientists at Sea: Richard Rowlett – Senior Marine Mammal Observer (Rowlett 2014).

### RICHARD A. ROWLETT'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARYLAND BIRDING

Rowlett's contributions to our Mid-Atlantic regional knowledge of avifauna, and especially that of Maryland, are considerable and diverse.

There are over 500 references to “Rowlett” in fifteen volumes of *Maryland Birdlife*, primarily between 1971 and 1980, attesting to his dedication to birding the entire state of Maryland and as an indicator of his time spent in the field. Rowlett's name also appears in 56 references in *The Raven*, the journal of the Virginia Society of Ornithology between 1971 and 1982. Rowlett references also appear in 37 separate issues of *The Chat*, the journal of the Carolina Bird Club, mostly between 1972 and 1980. Rowlett's observations were also recorded in more than 70 seasonal reports, compiled by various editors, from the Middle Atlantic Coast (Maryland and Virginia), Southern Atlantic Coast (North Carolina), Appalachian (western Maryland), and Hudson-Delaware (Delaware

and New Jersey) regions between 1972 and 1979 in *American Birds*, the journal of the National Audubon Society.

Rowlett was a contributing observer to 78 MD/DCRC rarity reports and records from 1970 through 1980. At least thirteen of these were first state records for Maryland, including Maryland's first Sage Thrasher, Limpkin, American Flamingo, Atlantic Puffin, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Common Murre, Northern Fulmar, as well as many state second and third records, seasonal records (e.g., first for winter), and state geographic records (e.g., first for the Allegany Plateau). Rowlett also found or provided initial documentation for state firsts in Virginia (e.g., Arctic Tern, Gray Kingbird, Bridled Tern, and White-faced Storm-Petrel) and Delaware (Band-rumped Storm-Petrel and Garganey).

Many Rowlett photographs were published in ornithological publications. Notably, Finch et al. (1978) in *American Birds* featured several of Rowlett's photos of Maryland's 1975 Yellow-nosed Albatross, among others. Rowlett is also credited with photos in *Birds of the Carolinas* (Potter et al. 1980) as reviewed by Robbins (1979). Rowlett also published nine *Maryland Birdlife* cover photos, an average of one per year. One issue of *American Birds* included three Rowlett rarity photos within one single regional report (Scott 1978).

Rowlett also quickly made an indelible mark in pelagic exploration. The first page of the advertising flier for Rowlett's first Ocean City pelagic trip (1973) is shown in Figure 2.

Harding and Harding (1980) referred to Rowlett as "the dean of pelagic birding in the east." They quoted from one of his brochures,

"These trips provide the rare opportunity for those of us, who have idolized the exploits of early explorers in American Ornithology and Cetology, to be a part of our own modern day pioneering efforts to explore one of the last and long neglected frontiers of North America field biology, that of observing and establishing spatial and temporal distribution and habits of the pelagic birds and cetaceans living in the ocean waters off the middle-Atlantic States."

As one of the original "pioneers" of North American and Maryland pelagic birding, Rowlett's culminating 87-page 1980 United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) publication, *Observations of Marine Birds and Mammals in the Northern Chesapeake Bight* (Rowlett 1980b), was key to understanding and documenting Maryland and western Atlantic Ocean seabirds. At the time of publication, Rowlett was associated with the National Fish and Wildlife Laboratory, National Museum of Natural History; the National Coastal Ecosystems Team, USFWS; and the Biological Services Program, USFWS. This monograph has subsequently been cited by many state seabird authorities.

A MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL FIRST!

## The WINTER

SPECIAL TRIP \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*OCEAN CITY PELAGIC  
≡ ≡ ≡\*\*\*\*\* SPECIAL TRIP  
\*\*\*\*\*

February 3 or 4, 1973

Leader: RICHARD A. ROWLETT, 715 Main St., Apt 5, Laurel, Md. 20810.  
 phone: 301--498-6091.

In a series of recent birding trips this winter aboard Cod fishing headboats, 10 to 20 miles out of Ocean City, some interesting new data is being learned about the status of the long neglected seabirds wintering off the Maryland coast. Species such as the Black-legged kittiwake, long considered rare at the Maryland latitude and represented only by a scattering of isolated records along the coast, has been found to be common, and often, the most abundant species only a few miles off shore. Razorbills, represented only by two or three isolated hypothetical coastal records have been encountered twice, once with three at one time, and a Skua, a first record for Maryland, was seen on January 13.

The potential in penetrating this unexplored aspect of Maryland Birdlife is indeed wide open, and you can be a part. Offered now is an opportunity to be a pioneer on a team that can make an important ornithological contribution, and perhaps too, find such new Maryland species as the Fulmar or one of the rarer alcids, as well as gain new information and insights toward offshore winter birdlore.

On Feb. 3, we are chartering a headboat out of Ocean City, strictly for the search of sea birds. We will (hopefully) go where the birds are, leaving promptly at 6:29 am (that means be on the dock or on board at 6:14 am or before) aboard the "TAURUS," from the Mast Restaurant in West Ocean City. We will steam as far as possible out to sea, hopefully 30 to 40 miles (the closer we get to the Gulf Stream, the better our odds for number and species). We should return no later than 5:00 pm. We will be chumming in an effort to attract desirable species close to the boat like Gannets, Kittiwakes, white-winged gulls, and who knows what else.

If the seas are unreasonably rough or weather is foul, the trip will be post-poneed until Feb. 4, and we will bird the Ocean City area for the Harlequin Ducks, Little and Black-headed Gulls, Ipswich Sparrow, etc., or what ever the group elects to do.

There are a number of people expressing strong interest in this trip. The cost is \$10.00 per head, and space will be limited to about the first 40. Reservations must be accompanied with \$10.00, and sent promptly to Richard A. Rowlett (address above), and should reach me no later than Jan 30. A minimum head count will be 20, which means that cancellations can be refunded only if this minimum can be met.

The "TAURUS" is equiped with an observation deck with seats above the stern, which is extremely beneficial as an excellent vantage point for observation for a large number of people, and for the sake of staying dry from the constant spray which may wash over the bow. Restrooms and a heated cabin are available. Several experienced "sea-birders" including Chandler Robbins and Paul DuMont, will be on board to help point out helpful field marks for those less experienced.

Winter boat trips at sea are often rigorous and require an excess of hardcore desire and stamina to endure the grueling hours. There are often long boring periods between birds, but the good fellowship accompanied by the often amazing close looks at Gannets and Kittiwakes squelches boredom.

**Figure 2. Richard A. Rowlett's first Ocean City, Maryland, pelagic trip advertising flier for 3 or 4 February 1973.**

While in the Atlantic area, Rowlett published 16 articles in *Maryland Birdlife* and other Mid-Atlantic regional journals, many dealing with first state records. His regional bibliography is presented herein.

In addition to his numerous articles, Rowlett gave presentations and workshops on various regional birding topics, notably on seabirds and shorebirds, to many local MOS chapters and other regional organizations.

In addition to rarity-focused activities, Rowlett contributed his time to various MOS causes and survey projects including May Counts, Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Atlases. He also served a term on the MOS Board of Directors as a Trustee/State Director from the Montgomery County Chapter. During the 1970s, the MOS annual conventions were mostly held in Ocean City and Rowlett organized pelagic trips for conference attendees. He also contributed money for the MOS Sanctuary Fund, raised from a portion of his pelagic trip fees.

Rowlett contributed over 50 pelagic and land bird study skin specimens to the Smithsonian Institution's Division of Birds from 1969 through 1983, with three from Maryland, one from Virginia, five from North Carolina, and four from New Jersey. His Maryland specimens are listed in Table 1.

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**Table 1. Richard A. Rowlett's Maryland specimens donated to the Division of Birds, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.**

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USNM#	Scientific Name	Common Name	Date Collected	Location	County	Preparation
574947	<i>Spinus pinus pinus</i>	Pine Siskin	7 Mar 1974	Laurel	Prince George's	whole skin
575650	<i>Ardenna gravis</i>	Great Shearwater	18 Jun 1978	unrecorded	unrecorded	whole skin
553853	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Northern Gannet	5 Apr 1979	Assateague Island	Worcester	skeleton

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#### Rowlett's MD/DCRC Maryland Reports and Records

A summary of Rowlett's MD/DCRC reports and records contributions (captured in the MD/DCRC database) is provided in Table 2.

**Table 2. MD/DCRC Maryland reports and records documented by Richard Rowlett (in chronological order).** (Legend: State “first” reports are bolded. Record # = MD/DCRC accession number; Decision/Status = MD/DCRC database decision or status [Accepted and Not Accepted - self-explanatory; Non-Review Species - the species is no longer reviewable; Ready - the report is ready to be scheduled for a review; Reviewable - there still may be a chance of locating detailed documentation; Unreviewable - no detailed documentation exists.])

Record #	Species	Start Date	County	Location	Photo?	Decision/Status
2011-123	Audubon's Shearwater	08/01/1970	WORC	Assateague Island	✓	Non-Review Species
1990-013	Rufous Hummingbird	05/01/1971	FRDK	Lily Pons Water Gardens		Accepted
1995-014	<b>Limpkin</b>	05/25/1971	FRDK	Lily Pons Water Gardens	✓	Accepted
1995-015	<b>Sage Thrasher</b>	10/24/1971	WORC	Assateague Island	✓	Accepted
1997-307	“Oregon” Junco	01/27/1972	MONT	Rockville	✓	Ready
2004-086	Hoary Redpoll	03/02/1972	MONT	Rockville	✓	Reviewable
2007-110	Common Redpoll	03/03/1972	MONT	Rockville	✓	Non-Review Species
2003-482	Eared Grebe	03/14/1972	WORC	Ocean City		Not Accepted
1997-234	Painted Bunting	04/18/1972	MONT	Kensington	✓	Accepted
2008-143	Bewick’s Wren	06/04/1972	WASH	??		Reviewable
2008-144	Bewick’s Wren	06/04/1972	ALGY	??		Reviewable
2008-145	Bewick’s Wren	06/08/1972	ALGY	Little Orleans		Reviewable
2011-022	Bewick’s Wren	06/16/1972	ALGY	Little Orleans		Reviewable
2001-088	<b>American Flamingo</b>	08/08/1972	WORC	Assateague Island	✓	Accepted
2007-086	“Oregon” Junco	12/17/1972	GRTT	Garrett County CBC circle		Reviewable
2008-016	<b>Great Skua</b>	01/13/1973	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Non-Review Species
2006-147	<b>Northern Fulmar</b>	02/03/1973	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Non-Review Species
1997-411	Pine Grosbeak	02/10/1973	GRTT	Big Savage Mountain	✓	Accepted
1997-546	Thick-billed Murre	03/03/1973	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Unreviewable
2003-486	Ruff	05/06/1973	SMST	Deal Island WMA		Reviewable
1997-575	Pine Grosbeak	12/17/1973	GRTT	Friendsville		Unreviewable
1997-404	<b>Great Skua</b>	02/02/1974	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Non-Review Species

Record #	Species	Start Date	County	Location	Photo?	Decision/Status
2008-015	<b>Manx Shearwater</b>	06/01/1974	WORC	Pelagic Zone	✓	Non-Review Species
1999-027	European Storm-Petrel	08/08/1974	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Unreviewable
1997-531	Long-tailed Jaeger	08/08/1974	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Unreviewable
2006-151	Northern Fulmar	10/19/1974	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Non-Review Species
1997-412	<b>Atlantic Puffin</b>	02/01/1975	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Non-Review Species
2006-149	murre species	02/01/1975	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Unreviewable
2006-150	skua species	02/01/1975	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Unreviewable
1990-006	<b>Yellow-nosed Albatross</b>	02/01/1975	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Accepted
1990-007	Atlantic Puffin	03/16/1975	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Accepted
1997-522	Purple Gallinule	06/19/1975	MONT	Seneca-C&O Canal		Unreviewable
2104-074	<b>Black-capped Petrel</b>	09/07/1975	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Reviewable
1997-645	Long-tailed Jaeger	12/06/1975	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Unreviewable
2003-493	Thayer's Gull	02/08/1976	WORC	Ocean City		Reviewable
2006-145	skua species	04/11/1976	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Unreviewable
2004-161	Magnificent Frigatebird	04/14/1976	WORC	Ocean City		Reviewable
1997-515	Yellow Rail	04/24/1976	DORC	Elliott Island		Unreviewable
2008-034	<b>South Polar Skua</b>	05/09/1976	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Accepted
1997-409	Northern Fulmar	05/09/1976	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Non-Review Species
1986-017	<b>Sabine's Gull</b>	05/09/1976	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Accepted
1997-721	skua species	05/09/1976	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Unreviewable
1986-020	Arctic Tern	05/16/1976	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Not Accepted
1997-255	Bridled Tern	09/26/1976	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Accepted
2003-498	Clay-colored Sparrow	10/22/1976	WORC	Assateague Island		Reviewable
1996-028	Smith's Longspur	11/27/1976	WORC	Assateague Island	✓	Accepted
1997-407	Northern Fulmar	12/04/1976	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Non-Review Species
1995-013	<b>Common Murre</b>	12/29/1976	WORC	Ocean City Inlet		Accepted
1997-237	<b>Thick-billed Murre</b>	01/09/1977	WORC	Assateague Island	✓	Accepted
1997-236	Common Murre	01/16/1977	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Accepted
1997-528	Ruff	09/21/1977	FRDK	Lily Pons Water Gardens		Reviewable

Record #	Species	Start Date	County	Location	Photo?	Decision/Status
1997-328	Fulvous Whistling-Duck	09/21/1977	MONT	Violette's Lock		Unreviewable
1983-007	Le Conte's Sparrow	10/23/1977	WORC	Ocean City		Accepted
1997-335	Northern Shrike	11/09/1977	ANAR	Sandy Point State Park	✓	Accepted
1997-306	Common Ground-Dove	11/10/1977	ANAR	Sandy Point State Park	✓	Accepted
1997-315	Lark Bunting	11/18/1977	KENT	Galena	✓	Accepted
1997-567	Pine Grosbeak	11/19/1977	ALGY	Dan's Rock		Unreviewable
1997-232	Clay-colored Sparrow	01/15/1978	HARF	Churchville	✓	Reviewable
1997-326	"Pink-sided" Junco	01/19/1978	PGEO	Laurel		Unreviewable
1997-348	Hoary Redpoll	02/11/1978	MONT	Spencerville	✓	Ready
1997-298	Western Tanager	04/22/1978	MONT	Takoma Park	✓	Accepted
2004-166	Arctic Tern	05/06/1978	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Unreviewable
1997-536	Arctic Tern	05/06/1978	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Unreviewable
1997-403	Atlantic Puffin	05/07/1978	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Non-Review Species
1997-408	Northern Fulmar	05/07/1978	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Non-Review Species
2004-167	Arctic Tern	05/07/1978	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Unreviewable
2004-168	Arctic Tern	05/07/1978	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Unreviewable
1998-001	Purple Gallinule	05/28/1978	PGEO	Upper Marlboro	✓	Accepted
1997-413	South Polar Skua	06/18/1978	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Accepted
1997-256	South Polar Skua	06/18/1978	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Accepted
1997-406	Great Skua	12/30/1978	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Non-Review Species
1997-405	Great Skua	12/30/1978	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Non-Review Species
1997-500	Black-capped Petrel	07/18/1979	WORC	Atlantic Ocean		Accepted
1997-301	South Polar Skua	07/20/1979	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Accepted
2008-020	Yellow-nosed Albatross	12/03/1979	WORC	Atlantic Ocean	✓	Accepted
1997-518	Yellow Rail	12/25/1979	WORC	Assateague Island		Unreviewable
1996-022	Magnificent Frigatebird	04/28/1980	WORC	Ocean City	✓	Accepted

## RICHARD A. ROWLETT: BIBLIOGRAPHY

Rowlett's regional ornithological publications are summarized in the bibliography below. The bibliography is organized into three sections. First, are publications from his younger years in Missouri and from early western travels, which demonstrate the background that prepared him for his ten years in Maryland. Second, are his regional Middle Atlantic publications of the 1970s and 1980s. Third, are Rowlett's publications, presentations, and key blogs after he left Maryland and became a professional seabird and marine mammal observer, mostly in the Pacific Ocean.

In the Rowlett bibliography, I provided, in brackets, extensive field observation year annotations for many of Rowlett's observations to aid in following the chronology since, in many cases, papers were not published until many years after the field work was complete.

### Early Years – Missouri and Western United States

This section presents a bibliography of Rowlett's nature and science work as a young man in Missouri and from trips to the western United States.

Rowlett R.A. 1969a. Bird reports from southeast Missouri. *The Bluebird* 36(3):2.

Rowlett, R.A. 1969b. Mortality at 400-foot tower [Spring 1966, Spring 1967]. *The Bluebird* 36(1):17–20.

Rowlett R. A. 1972a. First Records of *Eumops perotis* and *Microtus ochrogaster* in New Mexico [June 1968; August 1969]. *Journal of Mammalogy* 53(3):640.

### Middle Years – Middle Atlantic Region

This section summarizes Rowlett's regional ornithological publications during his time in the Middle Atlantic region, focusing primarily on Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and North Carolina. *Maryland Birdlife* cover photographs are noted.

Lee, D.S., and R.A. Rowlett. 1979. Additions to the seabird fauna of North Carolina. *The Chat* 43(1):1–9.

Rowlett, R.A. 1971a. First Maryland record for the Sage Thrasher [24 October 1971]. *Maryland Birdlife* 27(4):171–172.

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## RICHARD A. ROWLETT: BIOGRAPHY

### Biographical Sketch

Rowlett was born in 1947, and while at Northwest Missouri State University majoring in Meteorology, he transferred to Southeast Missouri State University, graduating with a degree in Zoology in 1970. Drafted by the United States Army the same year, he chose the option of going to Washington, DC over Vietnam and served two years in the Honor Guard at Arlington National Cemetery as a sentinel at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, afterwards, remaining in the DC area as a Biological Technician assisting professional staff with pesticide studies on upland game and water birds at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland.

Rowlett honed his skills for finding rarities in his early years. He was cited several times for observations of unusual sightings in Missouri: Easterla (1966) reported on the winter 1965–1967 winter finch invasion into northwestern

Missouri. Reports included a 20 November 1965 sighting by Rowlett, Watkins, and Easterla of a pair of White-winged Crossbills in a pine grove 10 miles west of Maryville, Missouri, and an observation by Rowlett and Easterla of at least six Common Redpolls in the same area on 18 December 1965 and 15 January 1966.

Rowlett (1969b) published an article in *The Bluebird*, the journal of the Audubon Society of Missouri, titled “Mortality at 400-foot Tower.” The paper presented the results of Rowlett’s daily surveys, a hand drawn plot of the kill locations relative to the tower and guy wires, and a discussion of the broader topic of tower kills.

While a student at Southeast Missouri State College in Cape Girardeau, Rowlett (1969a) published a detailed account and analysis of his 1968–1969 winter and spring bird sightings in southeast Missouri, his first exposure to the avifauna of the opposite corner of his home state.

Rowlett contributed a Black Rail specimen (USNM 564977) to the Smithsonian Institution that was collected in Missouri on 23 September 1969.

Interestingly, also in 1969, Rowlett’s brother, Roger, published a note in the same state journal titled, “Why Study Ornithology?” (Rowlett [Roger] 1969)

In the winter of 1968–1969, Rowlett was credited with many reports in the winter bird surveys and also in the spring and summer surveys (Anderson 1971a, 1971b, 1971c). Regional birds of note reported by Rowlett include Western Meadowlarks, Evening Grosbeaks, and Red Crossbills in winter; Eared Grebe, White-rumped Sandpiper, 34 Fish Crows, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and continuing Evening Grosbeaks into the spring; and an adult Louisiana [Tricolored] Heron and a Glossy Ibis in the summer.

### New Mexico

During the summers of 1968, 1969, and 1970, Rowlett spent time in the mountains of northeastern New Mexico with his father, Ray L. Rowlett, where he became familiar with many western species. He referenced his New Mexico experience in several of his later articles (Rowlett 1971a, 1971b). He published records of Western Mastiff-bats (*Eumops perotis*) and Prairie Voles (*Microtus ochrogaster*) observed and collected in New Mexico (Rowlett 1972a).

### Early Christmas Bird Counts

Rowlett began participating in Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) in 1965, having been credited as an observer in two Missouri CBCs according to Hanselmann (1966). In 1969 and 1970, Rowlett was listed as a participant in the Maryville CBC (Dawson 1970, 1971).

In 1975, Rowlett [presumably Richard] reported White-winged Crossbills and a Lincoln Sparrow on the 1975 Maryville CBC (Jones 1976).

During the 1977 Squaw Creek [Missouri] CBC, Rowlett and Barksdale reported and submitted a detailed sight report of a Gyrfalcon, seen in flight for about five minutes (Goodge 1978). This sighting was called the “find of the season” by Robbins [M.] (1978) and later referred to as the only “reliable sighting” of this species, prior to the first photographed Missouri record of a bird caught in a falconer’s trap in 2000 (Easterla and Scarbrough 2001).

In 1978, Rowlett is credited with having reported two Common Yellowthroats (unusual) on the Squaw Creek CBC (Goodge 1979).

#### Rowlett Interview

In her “Interesting Member Profile” newsletter interview for the East Lake Washington Audubon Society, McQuade (2005) wrote of Rowlett:

“After Patuxent, he assisted the Smithsonian Institution National Fish & Wildlife Lab Division of Mammals by trapping, mist-netting and preparing specimens for display, adding them to the museum collection; even donating his own collection of 2000 specimens to the museum in 1982. From 1978 to 81, as Regional Cruise Leader he conducted and supervised field research for the University of Rhode Island Marine Science Consortium, Wallops Island, Virginia. Next, he worked seven seasons as a Naturalist Guide & Lecturer on board Society Expeditions luxury cruise ships, visiting Chilean fjords to the Antarctic Islands, Falklands, Shetlands, South Georgia, with a focus on wildlife ecology and history.

“Following that, as a senior scientist and cruise leader, he organized and supervised multi-year, multi-ship seabird and cetacean surveys for the International Whaling Commission, Cambridge, England. And from 1981 to 1988 he was responsible, as Field Supervisor, for National Marine Mammal Laboratories, Seattle, for studying impacts on North Pacific and Alaskan Dall’s Porpoise, other sea mammals, and seabirds while assigned to the 176 Japanese vessel fleet engaged in high seas drift net salmon fishing.

“From then until the present [2005] he has been associated with NOAA/NMFS [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service], including Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, California on term appointments and contracts, working out of Sand Point, Seattle, and La Jolla. This involves numerous seasonal, multi-year-at-sea marine mammal, seabird

and turtle projects as well as whale/dolphin and tuna population recovery issues worldwide. He considers his terrestrial field research of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians throughout Central, North America, Peru and Alaska of secondary importance in his biological work around the world.”

### Rowlett Professional Update

Earlier, in 2011, Rowlett was at Palmyra Atoll (North Pacific Ocean, between Hawaii and American Samoa) working the seas within the 200 nmi [nautical mile] EEZ [Exclusive Economic Zone] around Palmyra. He remarked that observations of seabirds along the standard survey lines at sea were excellent, especially for *Pterodromas* where he logged 16 species. He noted that the North Equatorial Counter Current at the tropical mid-North Pacific (2–9° N) provided an endless bounty of *Pterodroma* gadfly petrels and perhaps the richest region on Earth for diversity with this genus.

Rowlett’s (2014) self-described NOAA web page profile follows:

“I started as a recreational birder which evolved into a decade of organizing and running seabird and whale watching trips off the East Coast (Ocean City, MD and Cape Hatteras, NC) through the 1970’s while my “day job” was with the Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian, Washington, DC). These first ever pioneering efforts into previously and amazingly “uncharted” waters led to a significant data base simply through self-teaching and growing experience, that I moved on to the first ever marine mammal, turtle, and seabird surveys in the NW Atlantic off US East Coast (University of Rhode Island project acronym CETAP) and from there these ‘dangling carrots’ just kept escalating and expanding to a decade (1980’s) of marine mammal surveys circumnavigating Antarctica (southern summers) and North Pacific Alaska/Aleutian/Bering Sea (northern summers) with the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Seattle, WA, working with Dall’s porpoise and the Japanese high seas drift net salmon fishery. Foreign fisheries work filled some gaps in between until coming on with NOAA Fisheries and Southwest Fisheries Science Center (La Jolla, CA) in 1989 as a marine mammal observer in annual marine mammal surveys including Eastern Tropical Pacific, U.S. West Coast, Alaska, and Hawaii projects in addition to 15 seasons monitoring gray whale calf migration along the central California coast at an extraordinarily unique shore based study site, Pt. Piedras Blancas Light Station near San Simeon, CA.”

## SUMMARY

Richard A. Rowlett's contributions to the knowledge of the avifauna of Maryland and the Middle Atlantic region are legion. His indefatigable efforts to seek out rare and unusual avian sightings, on both land and sea, during the decade of the 1970s are preserved by numerous published scholarly articles and his photographs. His influence persists, even if many contemporary birders did not know him personally, or even know of his renowned reputation. The MD/DCRC is pleased to have this opportunity to acknowledge his ornithological contributions to our region and to educate the birding public on his significant accomplishments.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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**Open Ocean Roosting of Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*)**

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The Ocean City, Maryland, Christmas Bird Count has been conducted in late December every year since 1948. For the first two decades of the count, an average of 200 Snow Geese were counted each year with a range of 0–2000. All were presumed to be the Greater Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens atlantica*) which wintered in and around Assateague Island and the Sinepuxent Bay to its immediate west. Starting in 1973, the count saw a major influx of geese, with 7710 geese being counted. Over the ensuing 30 years, the numbers of Snow Geese ranged from 10,000 to 66,000 and averaged about 30,000 in the 1990s. Almost all of these birds were considered to be Greater Snow Geese, with the numbers of blue morph birds representing about 0.25% of the total geese counted. A number of Ross's Geese (*Anser rossii*) has also been counted among the large flocks since 1992.

The bulk of these geese during those 30 years were observed feeding in the winter wheat (*Triticum* L. spp.) and other fields from the western outskirts of West Ocean City, west to the Pocomoke River on the boundary of Worcester and Wicomico Counties. A private marsh, known as Jenkins Pond, became one of the primary roosts for these geese during these years as no hunting and limited access was then in force. Jenkins Pond is located about 6 km (4 mi) southeast of Berlin and about 5 km (3 mi) west of Sinepuxent Bay. In 2002, this wetland changed hands and became a private hunting preserve. The geese were hazed repeatedly the ensuing winter when only 9000 geese were counted in the whole circle (December 2002), with almost none roosting at Jenkins Pond, compared to 51,000 counted a year earlier in December 2001.

On 27 December 2003, the night before the count, I noted 100 to 200 Snow Geese passing over West Ocean City shortly after dark and heading west. I did not consider the flight of any importance until the next day. A new daytime roost site for Snow Geese was discovered by Joseph R. Jehl and the author's count party working at the Ocean City Inlet. The roost was due east of, and just over the horizon (~6–7 km [~4 mi]) from, the Inlet. Many thousands of birds clearly roosted there all day. They were only visible from the Inlet when a boat ran through the flock and for a few minutes, thousands of white geese could be seen lifting up from the water before settling back down to the surface of the ocean. These repeated incursions by the high-speed boats may have been hunters, but no evidence was available to confirm this hypothesis.

No white geese flocks were seen passing overhead in the immediate area of Ocean City by the couple dozen count observers that were afield from approximately 0500 until 1730 hours on 28 December 2003. Darkness fell at about 1730. By 1800 and until 2000 hours, many thousands of geese could easily be seen and heard flying west over the lights of Ocean City in long waving white lines heading inland. A gross estimate of a minimum of 24,000 geese passing over Ocean City was made, but that made no account for flocks that may have been passing to the south or the north of Ocean City that evening.

It was not clear what the actual daily schedule of these birds was, nor was it totally clear the purpose of roosting in daylight on the open ocean and then flying inland after dark. The open fields and other places inland were not searched by any observers later that evening, nor were local farmers or hunters asked what they were seeing or hearing during the night in the region. It seems unlikely that the flocks of geese were simply shifting roost sites after spending about 12 hours or more on the open ocean without feeding. Gauthier et al. (1988) report similar field feeding in Greater Snow Geese in Quebec, with approximately half the day spent feeding and the other half in roosting or other activities.

At the time, the waterfowl season for white geese was open in Maryland. I had observed a small number of hunters that were working the large fields between Ocean City and the west side of the county on 27 December 2003. One must wonder if these geese were roosting on the open ocean to avoid the daytime hunters and also if they spent stormy days out on the open ocean. Mowbray et al. (2000) make no mention of the use of the open ocean for roosting. No such roosting flocks on the ocean were noted in any subsequent Ocean City Christmas Bird Counts through 2016.

The weather during those two days (27–28 December 2003) was relatively mild with only a moderate wind. The moon had been full about 5–6 days prior to this set of observations. Temperatures ranged from about -2° to 10° C (28° to 50° F), while the winds were calm to 6 km/hr (4 mi/hr) from the east. No fog or precipitation was present during the period.

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**First Maryland Record of Trindade Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*)**

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On Saturday evening, 24 August 2012, a *See Life Paulagics* cruise left Lewes, Delaware, aboard the *Thelma Dale V*. Our objective was to reach the offshore of Baltimore Canyon, off the edge of the continental shelf in over 1,000 fathoms (6,000 ft) of water before daybreak. There had been five straight days of winds with an easterly component.

When we reached our destination, we stopped and drifted in the dark as we put out a heavy slick of ground fish, fish oil, and beef suet chunks. As first light on 25 August 2012, a call of “Storm-petrel!” went out. A quick check and the bird turned out to be a Leach’s Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*). The second storm-petrel was also a Leach’s. The third was a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*O. castro*). As numbers of Wilson’s (*Oceanites oceanicus*), Leach’s, and Band-rumped Storm-Petrels passed by heading upwind towards our slick, we also observed a few shearwaters. A call went out that a dark bird was approaching the boat; we were shocked to see that it was a dark morph Trindade [formerly Herald] Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*). The bird immediately stood out due to its dark overall coloration. Several leaders aboard had previous experience with this morph of Trindade Petrel and it was quickly identified by its extremely long, thin wings (Figure 1), smallish head and bill (Figure 2), and high arcing flight all of which helped rule out Sooty Shearwater (*Ardenna grisea*). Closer examination showed the jaeger-like pattern of the under primaries and primary coverts (Figures 1 and 2). The bird stayed near us, flying around, heading away, and then flying back towards the boat for nearly an hour. This was a Maryland state bird for all aboard.

The Trindade Petrel was not the only great bird for the trip. We also found 3–5 Black-capped Petrels (*Pterodroma hasitata*), a species that had only two accepted Maryland records prior to this trip (MD/DCRC 2018), and great looks at a White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*). The final count for Leach’s was 58, for Wilson’s was 85, and for Band-rumped was a record shattering 122. Other species observed that day were Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), and Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*).



**Figure 1. Trindade Petrel, *Pterodroma arminjoniana*.** Photographed on 25 August 2012 by Paul A. Guris.



**Figure 2. Trindade Petrel.** Photographed on 25 August 2012 by Paul A. Guris.

This report of Trindade Petrel (2012-075) was accepted in 2013 by the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee and added to the official list of Maryland birds (MD/DCRC 2018). Besides the Maryland sighting, only four other records of Trindade Petrel have occurred north of Virginia (Table 1). Other than the 1933 New York hurricane-stranded record (eBird 2018a), the four subsequent records have occurred more recently, Maryland (1) in 2012, and Maine (1) and Massachusetts (2) in 2014.

Additionally, an Atlantic Marine Assessment Program for Protected Species (AMAPPS) survey conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on 31 July 2013 supplied eight Maryland eBird (2018) reports that documented a mix of 15 light and dark morph Trindade Petrels (including photographs for most). These reports are currently listed in the MD/DCRC (2018) database as “Reviewable” and shortly will be ready for evaluation by the MD/DCRC.

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**Table 1: East Coast Trindade Petrel records north of Virginia.** Listing is north to south.

State	Date	Location	Morph	Source
Maine	10 JUN 2014	Ogunquit Beach, Ogunquit, (43.255417° N, -70.59175° W), York County	dark	Bevier 2017, MBRC 2018, eBird 2018b
New York	24 AUG 1933	Caroline Center, 15 miles southeast of Ithaca, Tompkins County	dark	eBird 2018a, eBird 2018b
Massachusetts	26 JUL 2014	Georges Bank, (39° 57.1' N by 57° 36.1' W), Nantucket County (pelagic)	light	MARC 2018, eBird 2018b
Massachusetts	28 JUL 2014	Georges Bank, (40° 03.6' N by 67° 52.4' W), Nantucket County (pelagic)	light	MARC 2018, eBird 2018b
Maryland	25 AUG 2012	offshore of Baltimore Canyon, Worcester County (pelagic)	dark	MD/DCRC 2018, eBird 2018b

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*See Life Paulagics* would like to thank Fishermen’s Wharf, Capt. H.D. Parsons, and the crew of the *Thelma Dale V* for providing us an excellent pelagic platform for these trips. We would also like to thank our intrepid leaders which included Mike Fritz, Anthony Gonzon, Matt Haffner, Mark Hoffman, and

Mikey Lutmerding. It is our leaders who help make the experience better for everybody. Thanks are also due to Phil Davis (Secretary of the MD/DCRC) for providing details on the NOAA-AMAPPS survey, and to an anonymous reviewer for providing helpful comments. And last but not remotely least, I would like to thank my wife, Anita Guris, for all she does. Without her help I would never be able to organize these trips.

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## The Band-rumped Storm-Petrel Complex (*Oceanodroma castro*) in Maryland Waters

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**Abstract:** The Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) has been known to consist of numerous populations breeding on scattered islands in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Recent research has identified genetically distinct populations as well as behaviorally distinctive populations in the Atlantic Ocean. Identification of these separate entities at sea is problematic, but in some circumstances, a presumptive identification may be warranted. Pelagic trips in Maryland waters have yielded photographic evidence strongly suggestive of two distinctive types. Museum specimens of hurricane-grounded birds have been consistent with the photographic evidence.

The bird in North America currently known as the Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) (BANP) was first described by Harcourt (1851) as *Thalassidroma castro* from the “Dezerta Islands” in the Madeiran archipelago. In his field guide to eastern birds, Peterson (1947) listed it as an accidental, using the name Madeira Petrel. The American Ornithologists’ Union Check-List (fifth edition) referred to it as Harcourt’s Petrel (AOU 1957). In a revision of his guide, Peterson (1980) called it Band-rumped Storm Petrel (Harcourt’s Storm Petrel). Subsequent gyrations of various checklist committees settled on BANP. As for its status as an accidental, deepwater pelagic trips revealed that it occurs regularly in western Atlantic waters, predominantly in the Gulf Stream.

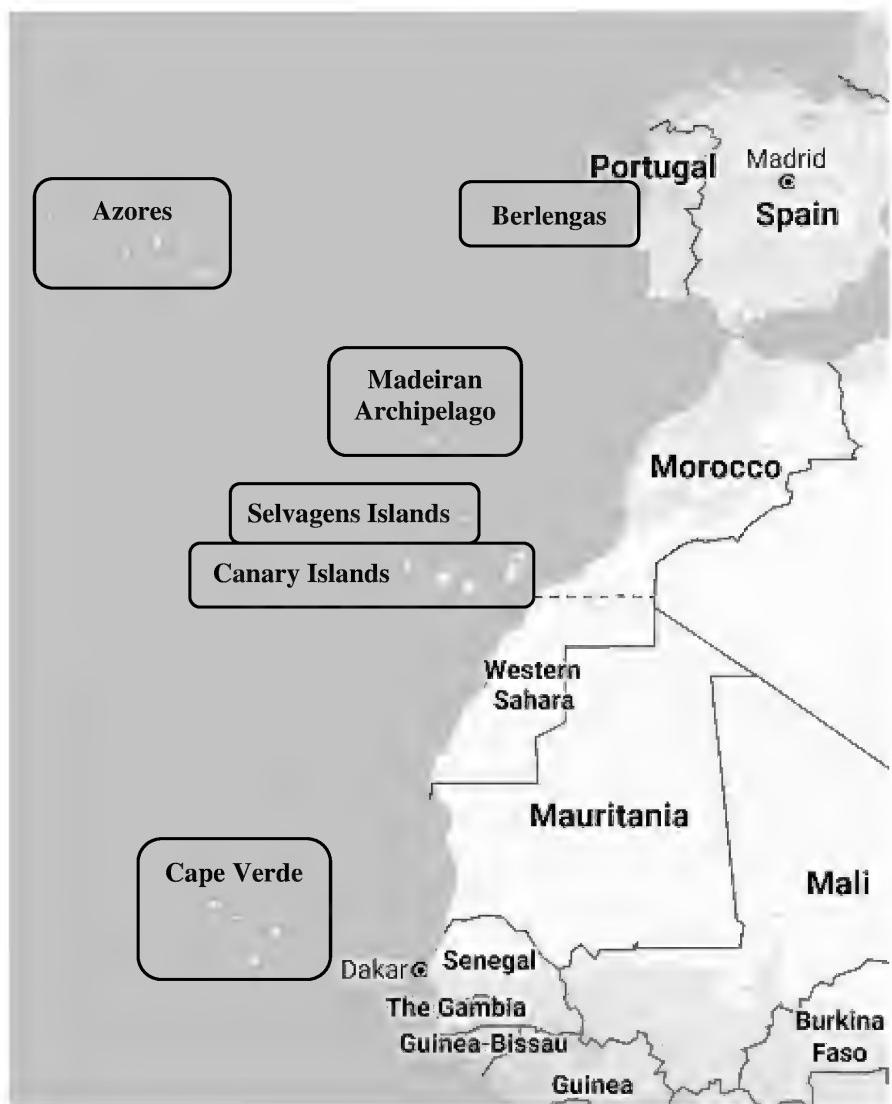
In the late 1980s, a Ph.D. student at the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom, by the name of Luis Monteiro was studying mercury levels in fish and other vertebrates in the waters around the Azores using the resources of the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries at the University of the Azores (Monteiro et al. 1991). While studying nesting seabirds, he observed that the mercury levels in the “hot” season (April–August) breeding “Madeiran” Storm-Petrels (as BANP are known in Europe) were 50% lower than those in the “cool” season (September–January) breeders, suggesting that they might be discrete populations (Monteiro et al. 1995). Separate seasonal populations of Madeiran Storm-Petrels had been documented in the Galápagos Islands by Snow and Snow (1966). Further studies with his thesis advisor R.W. Furness of the University of Glasgow established that hot-season birds had 5–10% smaller eggs

and body mass but longer tails and tail notches than cool-season birds (Monteiro and Furness 1998). They speculated that the two populations may represent “sympatric speciation through temporal partitioning of reproduction and may be better treated as sibling species.” In addition, preliminary analysis of mitochondrial DNA in collaboration with the laboratory of V.L. Friesen, Queens University, Kingston, Ontario, suggested genetic isolation of the two populations. Tragically, Luis Monteiro was killed in a 1999 plane crash while extending his studies in the Azores.

Before his death, Monteiro had arranged to begin working with Mark Bolton of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, United Kingdom, to expand studies of the storm-petrel breeding colonies on various islands in the eastern Atlantic (Figure 1). Vocalization playback experiments (Bolton 2007) showed that hot-season birds in the Azores were non-responsive to the calls of cool-season birds, as well as calls of birds from Cape Verde or the Galápagos Islands. Further mitochondrial DNA studies (Smith et al. 2007) established that the Galápagos Islands and Cape Verde birds diverged from all the other populations at least 150,000 years ago, and that the Azores hot-season birds were distinct from the cool-season birds breeding in the Azores and in other eastern Atlantic islands, having diverged 70,000–154,000 years ago. Moreover, the hot-season birds from the Madeiran Islands also appeared to be diverging from the cool-season birds. More extensive mitochondrial and nuclear DNA studies essentially confirmed these findings and revealed that the Cape Verde hot and cool seasonal populations appeared to be genetically isolated, but morphologically indistinguishable, whereas the two seasonal groups in the Selvagens Islands and Madeiran Islands had slight genetic but some morphometric differences (Friesen et al. 2007) and were possibly in the process of diverging.

Finally, with the addition of breeding, molt timing, and feather isotope-based diet data, Bolton et al. (2008) concluded “that the hot-season Azores population should be considered a new species for which we propose the name *Oceanodroma monteiroi*, Monteiro’s Storm-Petrel.” By extension, that means that the cool-season birds are also a full species that seems to be distributed among the eastern North Atlantic islands with the beginnings of hot/cool divergence.

The vocalizations of the various populations of BANP were recorded on their breeding grounds and showed significant differences easily discerned by ear in the field, a strong indicator of speciation. These studies are summarized in a remarkable book, *Petrels Night and Day: A Sound Approach Guide* (Robb et al. 2008). The book largely recounts Robb’s adventures while obtaining his recordings, but does summarize what knowledge we have to help us differentiate the four northeastern Atlantic populations of BANP. (It also covers such



**Figure 1. Band-rumped Storm-Petrel colonial nesting islands in the eastern Atlantic Ocean.** (Map data © 2017 Google, Inst. Geogr. National)

identification problems as Fea's/Zino's/Desertas Petrels (*Pterodroma feae/P. madeira/P. deserta*), Cory's/Scopoli's/Cape Verde Shearwaters (*Calonectris diomedea borealis/C. diomedea diomedea/C. edwardsii*), and a host of other pelagic species.)

The four populations of BANP studied were: 1) the hot-season breeder from the Azores, Monteiro's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma monteiroi*); 2) the longest-standing divergent taxon from the Cape Verde Islands, which they call Cape Verde Storm-Petrel (*O. jabejabe*); 3) the hot-season breeders from Madeira, the Selvagens Islands, and Canary Islands which retain the name Madeiran Storm-Petrel (*O. castro*); and 4) the cool-season breeders from the northeast Atlantic which they call "Grant's" Storm-Petrel but which also retain the scientific name *O. castro*. Thus Robb et al. (2008) acknowledge the strong DNA evidence (Friesen et al. 2007) that the "Grant's" population is not genetically distinct from the hot-season breeding Madeiran populations. Furthermore, "Grant's" has not been formally described as a separate taxon. Yet, the distinctive vocalizations of all four populations provide a mechanism for assortative mating and thus point to the beginnings of speciation. Just as it is wise to monitor subspecies of all taxa, perhaps it is equally wise to monitor the two populations of *O. castro* storm-petrels for conservation purposes. Since it may be possible to distinguish the cool-season and hot-season populations as they visit western Atlantic waters, they will be described separately in this paper with the caveat that many may not be distinguishable beyond the BANP level.

## DIFFERENTIATING CHARACTERS

In preparing his seabird book, Steve Howell (2012) spent several spring seasons joining Brian Patteson's "Spring Blitz" (*Seabirding Pelagic Trips*, Hatteras, North Carolina) consisting of as many as 16 trips in a row, as well as numerous summer trips. Using such features as adult primary molt stage and morphological differences, he determined that 80–90% of BANP in the Gulf Stream were cool-season breeders which he called "presumed Grant's". The others were mostly presumed Madeiran hot-season breeders, with an occasional outlier, the unlikely Cape Verde or Monteiro's (Howell et al. 2010). Digital photography has greatly aided in the determination of molt and structural characters, but close views with binoculars can often show the critical features. It is important to have experience with "Grant's" as the other three vary from "Grant's" only subtly. Also, note that single photos, or a brief look, can often give the impression of a significant tail notch, since viewing a keel-shaped tail from an angle will make it appear deeply notched even if it is not. Tail notch, stage of adult primary molt, wing and body shape, carpal bar length, and relative width of the rump band are key features to separate the forms, but often the forms have to remain undifferentiated.

Multiple Hatteras, North Carolina, pelagic trips in a row are a good way to become familiar with these birds as they frequent the Gulf Stream—which is reached in two hours—and are readily compared with Wilson's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*). In May and June, some of the molt differences can be most pronounced. The most useful character in identifying "Grant's" in the spring is the stage of primary molt which is a complex subject reviewed in detail in Howell et al. (2010) and in Flood and Fisher (2011). In short, molt proceeds from the innermost to the outermost primaries. In the spring, "Grant's" exhibit two to four worn outer primaries with new or missing inner primaries, whereas hot-season breeders should have, for the most part, completed primary molt. However, any non-molting bird could be a juvenile of any population and non-breeders could be following unknown molt schedules, so extreme caution is necessary. As usual, multiple characters should be considered. In recent years, finding BANP in Maryland waters has now become a regular feature of *See Life Paulagics* trips out of Lewes, Delaware, with some spectacular numbers, and comparable photos (Table 2). The key factor is that these are 18-hour overnight trips beyond the edge of the continental shelf in depths of 1000 fathoms (6,000 ft) or more. BANP are now an expected species on summer trips from Brooklyn, New York; Cape May, New Jersey; and Lewes, Delaware, with *See Life Paulagics*.

The storm-petrels we see are apparently in a clockwise rotation around the Atlantic and are using the Gulf Stream to propel them back to their respective breeding grounds. Adults are usually in the process of completing primary molt prior to breeding. Occasional exceptions could be juveniles from cool-season breeders or non-breeding adults, which add to the confusion. To add a further caution, keep in mind that there are southern Atlantic breeders on Saint Helena and Ascension Islands whose migratory movements, morphometrics and molt schedules are unknown.

**Cool-season breeding Madeiran ("Grant's") Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)**  
This may be the default population in the western Atlantic. A cool-season breeder banded by Luis Monteiro in the Azores was collected in the Gulf of Mexico on 31 May 1993 (Woolfenden et al. 2001), so we know Azores birds can come this way. From August to March, 3000–5000 pairs breed in the cool season on the Azores, Berlengas, Canary Islands, and the Madeiran Archipelago including Desertas and the Selvagens Islands (Robb et al. 2008). Egg-laying occurs from early October to December (Friesen et al. 2007). Adult primary molt is primarily from February to August, but with the latest recorded on 17 October (Bolton et al. 2008) so they usually exhibit one to four faded outer primaries in May and June, fewer in July (Robb et al. 2008). "Grant's" typically has long, narrow wings, not unlike Leach's Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (Howell et al. 2010). The wing width can vary with wind and flight conditions and single photos can capture extremes that may not be typical. The

upper tail covert band is narrow, uniform in width and about 30–40% of the overall tail projection (Robb et al. 2008). The tail notch ( $\bar{x} = 3.53$  mm  $\pm 1.47$  SD; range 1–7 mm [ $\bar{x} = 0.14$  in  $\pm 0.06$  SD; range 0.04–0.28 in]) is usually inconspicuous, making the long tail appear square (Bolton et al. 2008).

#### Monteiro's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma monteiroi*)

About 300 pairs breed in the hot season from March to September in the Azores (Bolton et al. 2008). Egg-laying occurs in May to early July (Bolton et al. 2008). Primary molt is from August to February (Robb et al. 2008), but the last date recorded was 17 May (Bolton et al. 2008), so a worn outer primary in May or a shed inner primary in August are possible (Robb et al. 2008). The body is some 5–10% lighter than “Grant’s”, but the wings and tail are similar in length, making both proportionately longer than in “Grant’s” (Bolton et al. 2008). The result is lighter wing loading in Monteiro's, making it possibly more buoyant. The carpal bar is more pronounced than in the other populations and extends to the joint (Bolton et al. 2008). The carpal bar is subtle and does not reach the joint in the other three populations. When soaring, the wings are uniformly broad to a somewhat rounded tip (see Robb et al. 2008, pages 242–243, and Howell et al. 2010). The rump band is variable in width. The tail notch ( $\bar{x} = 7.81$  mm  $\pm 2.3$  SD; range 1–14 mm [ $\bar{x} = 0.31$  in  $\pm 0.09$  SD; range 0.04–0.55 in]) when deepest could be conspicuous from all angles (Bolton et al. 2008).

Monteiro's apparently remains in the Azores year-round, while “Grant’s” leaves the Azores after the breeding season, thus accounting for the different mercury levels found by Luis Monteiro (Bolton et al. 2008). [One wonders if the added mercury is acquired by “Grant’s” in the western Atlantic from fallout of airborne mercury derived from coal-fired power plants.] Any Monteiro's Storm-Petrels in the western Atlantic are probably non-breeding adults or juveniles.

#### Hot-season breeding Madeiran Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)

From March to October, 2000–4000 pairs breed in the hot season on the Madeiran Archipelago including the Desertas and the Selvagens Islands, and in the Canary Islands (Robb et al. 2008). Egg-laying takes place in May–June and June–July (Friesen et al. 2007). Adult primary molt is from August/September to February, so none is expected from May to July, with perhaps only a shed inner primary late in August (Robb et al. 2008). Madeiran is smaller, chunkier and blacker than either “Grant’s” or Monteiro's (Howell et al. 2010), possibly with a fine bill in females (6.08 mm [0.24 in] at the tube, 5.19 mm [0.20 in] at the gony; specimen USNM 189861) or heavy in males (6.57 mm [0.26 in] at the tube, 5.58 mm [0.22 in] at the gony; specimen USNM 189860) (Table 1) (see Howell [2012, page 371, figures 167 and 168, and pages 376–377, figures S3.4 and S3.9]). Both the male and the female museum specimens had worn outer primaries, bill lengths of 14.65 mm [0.58 in] and rump bands of 1.5 cm [0.6 in] but the male's body was 3 cm [1.2 in] longer than the female's and the tail notch was 3 mm [0.1 in] compared to none in the female. The slight tail

notch is sometimes visible, and the wings and tail are shorter than in “Grant’s” (Howell et al. 2010). The rump band is narrow and often shows scattered black flecks, seen less frequently in “Grant’s”, or an occasional gray central dividing line (Howell et al. 2010).

#### Cape Verde Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma jabejabe*)

Possibly low thousands breed from October to June on the Cape Verde Islands, with two overlapping populations covering both hot and cool seasons. Egg-laying occurs from October to May (Friesen et al. 2007). Primary molt occurs from about March to December, so spring and summer birds could exhibit virtually any stage of primary molt. Cape Verde is smaller than “Grant’s” and Monteiro’s with a longer bill (Murphy 1924, Howell et al. 2010). The wings may be broader than “Grant’s” and the uppertail covert band relatively wider than “Grant’s”, but this may be speculation (Robb et al. 2008). For example, a specimen from Cape Verde (USNM 197701, Table 1), a female collected 17 May 1922, had fresh primaries, a 1.5 cm [0.6 in] rump band and a 5 mm [0.2 in] tail notch, measurements very similar to hot-season Madeiran birds. Likewise, another specimen, a male collected on 11 July 1971 (USNM 525795) at Saint Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean, had fresh primaries, a 1.7–2.0 cm [0.7–0.8 in] rump band and a 3–5 mm [0.1–0.2 in] tail notch.

**Table 1. Band-rumped Storm-Petrel specimens from the eastern Atlantic Ocean housed at the Division of Birds, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC (NMNH 2018).**

Catalog Number	Sex	Preparation	Collection Location	Collection Date	Collector
USNM 189860	♂	skin: whole	Porto Santo, Porto Santo Island, Madeira Islands	14 Oct 1902	W.F. Rosenberg
USNM 189861	♀	skin: whole	Porto Santo, Porto Santo Island, Madeira Islands	12 Sep 1902	W.F. Rosenberg
USNM 197701 <sup>a</sup>	♀	skin: whole	Raso Island, Cape Verde	17 May 1922	J.G. Correia
USNM 490825	♂, adult	skin: partial, flat; skeleton: whole;	Egg Island, Egg Harbor; Saint Helena	11 Jul 1971	--
USNM 491205	--	skeleton: partial, miscellaneous bones	Egg Island, Saint Helena	11 Jul 1971	--
USNM 525795	♂, adult	skin: whole; skeleton: partial, trunk	Egg Island, 1 mile offshore, Saint Helena	11 Jul 1971	--
USNM B 42699	--	egg(s)	Ilho Da Baixo [sic], Madeira Islands	11 Jul 1907	E. Schmitz

<sup>a</sup> Note: Although the NMNH (2018) online database gives the Catalog Number for the Cape Verde specimen as USNM 364910, the specimen tag reads USNM 197701.

## CAUTIONS IN ASSIGNING SPECIFIC NAMES TO BANP

Even though there are statistically significant differences among the four populations of BANP in several morphological measures such as wing and tail length or tail notch, the ranges are wide enough to render broad overlap. Thus, in one study at sea east of Madeira in late April 2009, Shirihai (2009) found extensive variation in tail notch, color, and rump band thickness “virtually comprising the spectrum of variation shown in Robb et al. (2008) for the four forms...” Oddly, the vast majority of the birds were closer to what Robb et al. (2008) described as “Grant’s” at a time when the hot-season Madeiran birds were the expected population, yet they did not exhibit the advanced primary molt Howell et al. (2010) observed off Hatteras. One interpretation would be that the Madeiran birds include all the described morphological forms. But it is possible that non-breeding birds from various populations gather in favorable feeding grounds. Testing these hypotheses, or others, will require considerably more field work.

Flood and Fisher (2011) state that they “have been unable to make any advances in establishing differences that may assist in the confident identification of the various populations at sea...” Obviously, the at-sea identification of the four populations is fraught with uncertainty, yet under some circumstances, it seems possible to make tentative assignments to one form or another. The best example is in the spring when cool-season breeding “Grant’s” exhibit conspicuous late stage primary molt. Even then, Howell et al. (2010) refer to them as “presumed “Grant’s” and the non-molting birds as “possible Madeiran”.

While many, if not most, BANP should be left without further assignments, birds outside the range of overlap and exhibiting a complete set of characters for any one form may deserve the “presumed” or “possible” notation. The possibility of adding such carefully considered data points to an evolving field ought to be a source of encouragement for pelagic birders armed with digital cameras. If further field work should produce useful criteria for distinguishing island or seasonal specific populations, a library of digital photographs could be invaluable.

## IDENTIFYING STORM-PETRELS PHOTOGRAPHED IN MARYLAND WATERS

Ideally, observations would be best made in the spring when late stage primary molt flags presumed “Grant’s”. As it turns out, most of the trips have been in August (Table 2) when Monteiro’s could be in early stages and Cape Verde in any stage of primary molt. Nevertheless, the ten August trips that yielded photos produced many examples with features consistent with typical “Grant’s” Storm-Petrels. (Figure 2) These birds show long tails and wings with no primary molt,

**Table 2. Band-rumped Storm-Petrel specimens and reports chronologically listed in the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee database (MD/DCRC 2018a, 2018b).** (Note: Multiple listings for the same date indicate individual submittals by various observers. In these situations, the numbers of birds will differ based on the documentation submitted by each observer. Although multiple submittals can occur on the same date, they are not necessarily for the same bird[s].)

Control Number	Date	Location	Number of Birds	Photos	Status/Decision
1999-060	29 AUG 1893	DC: Anacostia, SE, Anacostia River, 11th Street Bridge (formerly Navy Yard Bridge)	1 adult ♀ (USNM 154436), shot from a flock of 3 or 4	yes	Accepted
1999-059	30 AUG 1893	DC: Capitol Hill	1 adult ♀ (USNM 293176)	yes	Accepted
2014-078	17 AUG 1991	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean, near Washington Canyon 37° 33.27' N, 74° 07.97' W	1	yes	Ready
2014-079	14 AUG 1993	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean, Poor Man's Canyon	11	no	Reviewable
1997-735	17 AUG 1997	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean, Baltimore Canyon	1	no	Accepted
2003-120	19 SEP 2003	DC: Potomac River, between Memorial Bridge and the 14th Street Bridge	1	no	Unreviewable
2010-165	03 JUL 2004	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean, 38° 02.5' N, 70° 39.97' W	1	?	Retracted
2010-004	13 JUL 2006	MD: Scotland, St. Mary's County, Chesapeake Bay	1	no	Ready
2007-092	24 AUG 2007	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean 38° 13.468' N, 73° 16.131' W	1	yes	Ready
2010-145	15 AUG 2010	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean 38° 26' 41.83" N, 73° 21' 05.80" W	3	yes	Ready
2010-148	19 AUG 2010	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	5	yes	Ready
2012-080	25 AUG 2012	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	128	yes	Ready
2013-033	30 JUL 2013	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	18	no	Reviewable
2013-034	30 JUL 2013	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	6	no	Reviewable
2013-048	31 JUL 2013	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	2	no	Reviewable
2013-053	31 JUL 2013	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	1	no	Reviewable
2013-055	31 JUL 2013	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	2	no	Reviewable
2013-058	31 JUL 2013	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	4	no	Reviewable
2013-059	17 AUG 2013	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	40	yes	Ready
2013-061	17 AUG 2013	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	1	pending	Reviewable
2013-063	17 AUG 2013	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	1	no	Unreviewable
2014-057	23 AUG 2014	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	22	yes	Ready
2016-033	04 JUN 2016	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	1	yes	Ready
2016-037	21 AUG 2016	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	81	yes	Ready
2018-003	20 AUG 2017	MD: Pelagic Zone, Atlantic Ocean	25	yes	Ready



**Figure 2: Presumed adult “Grant’s” [Band-rumped] Storm-Petrel.**

Photographed in late August when early stage inner primary molt occurs in Monteiro’s and any stage primary molt could occur in Cape Verde. The wings of “Grant’s” typically are long and narrow with a weak carpal bar that fades toward the joint. The tail is long with no apparent notch and the rump band is narrow (but can show some variability). An adult Monteiro’s, which could have a tail notch of any depth, has a prominent carpal bar that extends to the joint and a smaller body than “Grant’s”. A hot-season Madeiran would have shorter wings and tail with a chunkier body (Figure 3). Comparison with nearby Wilson’s Storm-Petrels is helpful as Grant’s and Monteiro’s are noticeably larger and Madeiran is somewhat closer in size. When not in powered flight, the hand of all BANP can be broader and less pointed. Photographed by Paul Guris on 25 August 2012.



**Figure 3: Presumed adult hot-season Madeiran [Band-rumped] Storm-Petrel with all fresh primaries.** Photographed in June when adult “Grant’s” and some but not all Cape Verde should be exhibiting primary molt. Adult Monteiro’s would also be fully molted, but longer winged with a prominent carpal bar that extends to the joint and typically but not necessarily have a pronounced tail notch. The wings and tail of Madeiran are shorter than “Grant’s” (Figure 2). The pale carpal bar falls short of the joint. The rump band is similar to that of “Grant’s” but often shows scattered black flecks or a faint dusky dividing line. A bird in this plumage in August would be extremely difficult to differentiate from “Grant’s”, except perhaps on size and rump band markings. To complicate matters, the primary molt schedules of juveniles and non-breeding adults of any population are not known. Photographed by Alex Lamoreaux on 4 June 2016.

little or no tail notch, a narrow rump band, and a pale carpal bar that does not extend as far as the joint. The lone June trip found a possible hot-season Madeiran Storm-Petrel that exhibited no wing molt, shorter wings and tail than in “Grant’s”, a slight tail notch, and a narrow rump band with scattered black flecks. (Figure 3) This distribution of presumed “Grant’s” and possible hot-season Madeiran is as expected given the ratio seen by Howell et al. (2010) off of Hatteras. No molting birds were photographed, which should also rule out most Cape Verde and adult Monteiro’s. Table 2 summarizes the reports submitted to the MD/DC Records Committee from the observers on various pelagic trips in Maryland waters.

One other June trip in 1986 came across a storm-petrel at Poor Man’s Canyon that was the first BANP that either Brian Patteson or I had ever seen, but it was not photographed to my knowledge. The bird glided directly beneath the bow pulpit. It was brown with long wings that were uniformly broad from base to a somewhat rounded tip and showed no obvious sign of molt. The shape was similar to the bird in Howell (2010, figure 23). The rump band was even-edged with a slight cream color and the tail had a pronounced notch as seen from directly above. The seas were calm with little wind, and the bird flew about 0.6 m (2 ft) above the surface with accipiter-like flapping and gliding. It is possible that this was a Monteiro’s Storm-Petrel, but we will never know for sure.

The Smithsonian collection contains two hurricane-related BANP from the District of Columbia: USNM 154436 and USNM 293176 collected on 29 and 30 August, respectively, in 1893 (Table 3). Both were females with fresh primaries, narrow rump bands (2.0–2.5 cm [0.8–1.0 in] and 1.5 cm [0.6 in], respectively), and shallow tail notches (3–4 mm [0.1–0.2 in] and 1–2 mm [0.0–0.1 in], respectively). A similar, although male, specimen (USNM 567674) was collected by Richard A. Rowlett in Delaware on 14 August 1975 (rump band 2 cm [0.8 in], tail notch 3–4 mm [0.1–0.2 in]). All three appear to be presumed “Grant’s” but require further morphometric study.

## SUMMARY

As far as identification of BANP forms in Maryland waters, there is no evidence of Cape Verde and only a single sighting of a bird that might possibly have been a Monteiro’s Storm-Petrel. Cursory examination of museum specimens collected in Delaware and the District of Columbia suggests that they are presumed “Grant’s”. Many of the digital photographs submitted to the MD/DC Records Committee show characteristics consistent with “Grant’s” and similar to the presumed “Grant’s” documented by Howell et al. (2010) out of Hatteras, North Carolina. Similarly, a single spring BANP photo shows characteristics consistent with the possible hot-season Madeiran that comprises 10–20% of the BANP seen off Hatteras (Howell et al. 2010). More trips, particularly in the

spring, could produce more convincing evidence, given the high quality of the digital photos submitted to the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee in recent years. If further taxonomic changes should be forthcoming, a collection of such photos could be an important addition to the literature and expand our knowledge of the Maryland avifauna.

**Table 3. Band-rumped Storm-Petrel specimens from the United States Mid-Atlantic region housed at the Division of Birds, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC (NMNH 2018).**

Catalog Number	Sex	Preparation	Collection Location	Collection Date	Collector
USNM 154436	♀ adult	skin: whole	Navy Yard Bridge, District of Columbia	29 AUG 1893	W. Palmer
USNM 293176	♀ adult	skin: whole	Capitol Hill, District of Columbia	30 AUG 1893	W. Palmer
USNM 566873	♀	skin: whole	Morehead City, Carteret County, North Carolina	1971	J.O. Fussell
USNM 567674	♂	skin: whole	72 miles east of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware	14 AUG 1975	R.A. Rowlett
USNM 602013	♀	skin: whole; mixed tissue sample, frozen (Birds 10K Genome)	Nelson County, Virginia	18 SEP 2004	A. Hale, B. Fiske

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**First Record of Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) in Maryland**Matthew D. Hafner<sup>1</sup> and Michael R. Lutmerding<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>2318 Putnam Road, Forest Hill, Maryland 21050; hafner.matt@gmail.com<sup>2</sup>805 Woodland Way, Owings, Maryland 20736; mlutmerding@gmail.com

On 21 August 2016, a *See Life Paulagics* trip, aboard the *Thelma Dale IV*, was off the continental shelf, east-southeast of Ocean City, Maryland. At 0621 hours, as we were moving in a southwest direction, a sulid was noted moving from the south to the northeast on the port side. The bird was seen well and photographed until 0622, at which point the distance and lighting conditions prevented further physical documentation. The bird was observed during our chum drift (chum and fish oils were liberally dispersed to attract tubenoses and other birds shortly after the vessel's arrival to deep water), though it did not change direction to investigate the chum or commotion of the other birds therein and continued on its course with purpose. The bird was in more or less direct flight the entire time of observation.

Immediately upon sighting the bird, the striking white and black plumage was evident and finer details were noted as the bird passed closer by the observers. The black primaries and secondaries, black rectrices, and dark facial skin were evident; the latter was particularly striking and was apparent in many of the photos. Review of the photos confirmed that the black in the wing extended into the tertials (Figure 1). From underneath, the black of the primaries, secondaries, and tertials formed a strongly demarcated line with the white wing lining (Figure 2). The trailing edge of the upperwing was extensively dark owing to the bird's black primaries, primary coverts, secondaries, and secondary coverts (Figure 1) with a strong demarcation between that and the white forewing. The plumage indicated an adult, or near adult Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*). Black-tailed, white morph Red-footed Booby (*S. sula*) was ruled out by the bird's dark tertials (Red-footed have white tertials) and by the presence of dark facial skin. No plumage of subadult Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) shows the combination of black primaries and secondaries with dark facial skin. The separation of Nazca Booby (*S. granti*) from Masked Booby is very difficult, however, no vibrant orange coloration (indicative of Nazca) was noted in the bill. Nazca Booby is a Pacific Ocean species and there are no records of it ever having occurred in the North Atlantic Ocean (eBird 2018).



**Figure 1. Masked Booby, *Sula dactylatra*.** Note the extensively dark trailing edge of the upperwing owing to the bird's black primaries, primary coverts, secondaries, secondary coverts, and extending into the tertials. Also note the strongly contrasting demarcation with the white forewing. Photographed on 21 August 2016 by Thomas Ford-Hutchinson.



**Figure 2. Masked Booby.** Note the black of the primaries, secondaries, and tertials on the underside of the wing form a strongly demarcated line with the white wing lining. Photographed on 21 August 2016 by Lutmerding.

The location was approximately  $38^{\circ} 09' 09.9''$  N,  $73^{\circ} 24' 35.6''$  W (Figure 3). This location is 147.3 km (91.5 mi) from Ocean City and approximately 24.9 km (15.5 mi) off the continental shelf edge at a depth of just over 1000 fathoms (6,000 ft) of water. Beginning in 2012, overnight trips, run by *See Life Paulagics*, have been visiting this area. Prior to 2012, most Maryland pelagic trips focused on Baltimore Canyon at the immediate shelf edge. Once the trips began venturing off the shelf edge and spending more time farther out in deeper water, Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (*Oceanodroma castro*) became regular, often common (personal observations). These trips have also recorded multiple Black-capped Petrels (*Pterodroma hasitata*) and a Trindade Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*) (personal observations). Clearly, birds more typical of the Gulf Stream are regular in the area.



**Figure 3. Location of Maryland's first Masked Booby.** Map adapted from Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO; Image Landsat / Copernicus; Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA (Google 2018).

Masked Booby is a regular visitor in pelagic waters north to North Carolina (eBird 2018). It is seen almost annually on Gulf Stream pelagic trips off North Carolina, with occasional coastal sightings. Sightings range from April to October, but most occur in July and August (LeGrand 2018). More northern sightings are rare, with the Maryland record representing only the fourth record of Masked Booby north of North Carolina (Table 1). A fifth was reported in September 2017 when an injured juvenile was rescued on Cape Cod,

Massachusetts; this bird perished during rehabilitation (Marshall J. Iliff, in litt. 9 February 2018).

**Table 1: East Coast Masked Booby records north of North Carolina.** Listing is north to south.

State	Date	Location	Source
Massachusetts	26 SEP 2017	Cape Cod, Barnstable County	Iliff, in litt. 2018
Massachusetts	10 SEP 2015	Atlantis Canyon (pelagic), Dukes County	MARC 2018, eBird 2018
New Jersey	24 AUG 2001	Island Beach State Park, Ocean County	NJBRC 2017, eBird 2018
New Jersey	15 OCT 2015	7th Street Seawall (Avalon Seawatch), Cape May County	NJBRC 2017, eBird 2018
Maryland	21 AUG 2016 (this record)	(pelagic) Worcester County	MD/DCRC 2018, eBird 2018

In 2009, many of Maryland's top birders voted on a "Next 10" list, in an attempt to guess the next species to be added to the state list (Hafner and Hubick 2009). At that time, there was only one record of Masked Booby north of North Carolina, so it was not a popular choice and only received two votes out of 39, placing it forty-second on the overall list. The 21 August 2016 Masked Booby sighting (MD/2016-038) was added to the official list of Maryland birds in 2017.

Given the regularity of Gulf Stream birds on these recent pelagic trips, it is interesting to consider what other first records for Maryland may be found. Gulf Stream trips out of the Outer Banks, North Carolina, have seen Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*), Fea's Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*), Bermuda Petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*), Black-bellied Storm-Petrel (*Fregetta tropica*), and Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma monorhis*) (Carolina Bird Club 2017). Deep water trips off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, which also see numerous Gulf Stream birds, have added Barolo Shearwater (*Puffinus baroli*) to that list (MARC 2018). With continued late summer pelagic trips to the deep water off Maryland, we are sure to add more species to the state list.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank Paul and Anita Guris of *See Life Paulagics* and the Captain and crew of the *Thelma Dale IV* for facilitating pelagic trips to the deep waters off Maryland.

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*Maryland Birdlife* 67(1):50–51

**Maryland Christmas Bird Counts (117th CBC)**  
**December 2016 through January 2017:**  
**Corrigendum**

Tables 3 and 4 of the 2016–2017 Maryland Christmas Bird Counts article (Churchill 2017) should show an additional species, Barrow's Goldeneye, (Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*).** Adult male; Elms Environmental Education Center, St. Mary's County, Maryland; observed by Tyler Bell, David Moulton, and Margarita Rochow on the 18 December 2016 Point Lookout Christmas Bird Count; photographed on 19 December 2016 by David Moulton.

The additional data line in Table 3 (Churchill 2017) should state the following:

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<b>Species</b>	Oakland	Allegany County	Washington County	Catoctin Mountain	Sugarloaf Mountain	Seneca	Triadelphia Reservoir	Rock Run	Bowie	Elkton	Chesterville
Barrow's Goldeneye											

The additional data line in Table 4 (Churchill 2017) should state the following:

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<b>Species</b>	Annapolis-Gibson Island	Middle River	Patuxent River	Jug Bay	Port Tobacco	Point Lookout	1
Barrow's Goldeneye							

## LITERATURE CITED

Churchill, J.B. 2017. Maryland Christmas Bird Counts (117th CBC): December 2016 through January 2017. *Maryland Birdlife* 66(2):37–54.

*Maryland Birdlife* 67(1):52

## 2017 Maryland Midwinter Bird Count: Corrigendum

Table 2 of the 2017 Maryland Midwinter Bird Count article (Fluke 2017) showed incorrect values for “Parties” and “Number of Observers” due to a column shift. The corrected data lines in Table 2 should read as follows:

	Frederick County	Carroll County	Howard County	Baltimore County	Harford County
Parties	18	16	49	20	7
Number of Observers	34	30	75	26	8

## LITERATURE CITED

- Fluke, M.A. 2017. 2017 Maryland Midwinter Bird Count. *Maryland Birdlife* 66(2):55–59.



### “Centennial Lake Buffleheads” by Diane Ford

“The Buffleheads were painted in January 2018 from observations at Centennial Lake, Howard County, Maryland, during the lake’s freeze this winter. The afternoon light on the drakes made them a rainbow of colors and I knew I had to paint them in the company of a lovely hen. The color painting is in acrylic on paper 13" x 18".”

**2017 Maryland May Count**

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The annual May Count was held on Saturday, 13 May 2017, except the Talbot count was conducted on Sunday, 14 May, in order to provide adequate coverage to both that county and Dorchester. Results were submitted from 22 of Maryland's 23 counties (Table 1).

**Table 1. 2017 Maryland May Count: participating counties, county codes, and compilers.** (The dashed line separates the Western and Eastern Shore counts.)

County	Code	Compiler
Garrett	GA	Nadine Jakubowski
Allegany	AL	J.B. Churchill
Washington	WA	Mark Abdy
Frederick	FR	David Smith
Montgomery	MO	Diane Ford
Carroll	CA	Don Jewell
Howard	HO	Kevin Heffernan, Chuck Stirrat
Baltimore	BA	Joel Martin
Prince George's	PG	Fred Fallon
Anne Arundel	AA	Dotty Mumford
Charles	CH	Lynne Wheeler
Calvert	CT	Sherman Suter
St. Mary's	SM	J. Tyler Bell
Harford	HA	Rick Cheicante
Cecil	CE	Richard Donham
Kent	KE	Walter Ellison
Talbot	TA	David Palmer
Dorchester	DO	Harry Armistead
Caroline	CN	Debby Bennett
Wicomico	WI	Ellen Lawler
Worcester	WO	Marcia Balestri
Somerset	SO	Paul Bystrak

Weather statewide on 13 May was quite unseasonable. It was cool statewide, with lows in the 40s to low 50s °F. Garrett was coolest at 43 °F. Afternoon highs were mostly in the high 50s °F, although it did hit 70 °F in Cecil. Normal lows are in the mid 50s °F (except in Western Maryland) and highs in the mid 70s °F. There was rain in most areas during the morning, except in Harford and Cecil. On the Western Shore, there were mostly showers or light rain, although Howard did report 0.68 inches total. The rain was steady to heavy on the Eastern Shore in the morning, with Somerset reporting 0.7 inches, and then intermittent showers in the afternoon. Most areas were cloudy all day, although some afternoon sun breaks appeared in Western Maryland. Winds were generally fairly light – calm to 15 mph with a few higher gusts, out of the NW to NE.

A total of 416 counters in 285 parties reported 242 species (plus Lawrence's Warbler in Carroll) and 107,942 individual birds (Tables 2 and 3). Total numbers of birds seen were down about 15% from 2016, which was a particularly strong year. Numbers were not significantly lower than the three years prior to 2016.

Among the most notable sightings reported were 20 American Wigeon (Worcester), 106 American Black Duck (2 in Garrett, 1 in Montgomery, 1 in Calvert, 3 in St. Mary's, 5 in Talbot, 38 in Dorchester, and 56 in Somerset), 2 Common Eider (1 each in St. Mary's [Figure 1] and Worcester), 171 Ruddy Duck (reported from 10 counties, including 112 in Dorchester), 17 Black-necked Stilt (2 in Dorchester and 15 in Somerset, compared to 0 in 2016), 1 American Golden-Plover (Kent [Figure 2]), 25 Black Skimmer (Worcester), 287 Brown Pelican (133 in St. Mary's, 5 in Talbot, 143 in Dorchester, and 6 in Somerset), and 15 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (1 in Calvert, 2 in Howard and 12 in Baltimore) (Tables 4 and 5).

Notable misses this year were Green-winged Teal, Northern Gannet (after a very high 218 seen last year), American Coot, and American Pipit.

Although most shorebirds were present in good numbers, Dunlin were significantly low. Hawk numbers were lower than usual, especially Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged. Flycatchers, with the exception of Eastern Phoebe, were another group present in smaller numbers than usual. Eastern Wood-Pewee and Acadian Flycatcher numbers were particularly low. Vireos were also low. Surprisingly, Tree Swallow numbers were much higher than recent years, while Purple Martins were lower. Warbler numbers were generally lower than last year, especially Common Yellowthroat, Northern Parula, and Prairie Warbler. Indigo Bunting numbers were quite low.

This was a fairly good count, considering the weather.

**Table 2. 2017 Maryland May Count: Western Shore summary.**

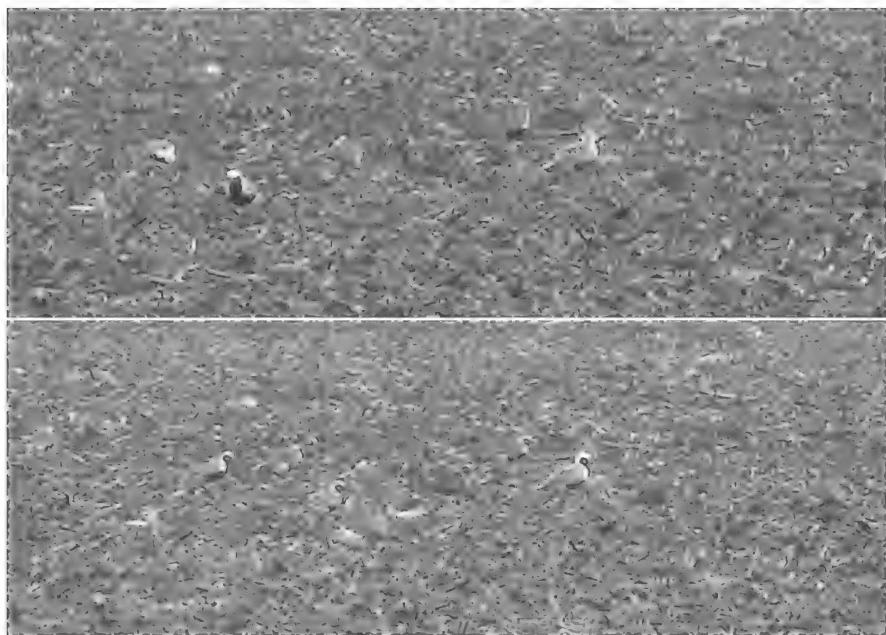
	GA	AL	WA	FR	MO	CA	HO	BA	PG	AA	CH	CT	SM	HA
Parties	23	9	7	15	4	12	54	35	22	17	12	10	10	5
Observers	38	9	14	18	4	19	73	41	33	26	19	14	12	25
Start time	0545	0500	0445	0430	0700	0630	0145	0133	0545	0600	0630	0615	0600	0700
Stop time	2325	1900	1700	2000	1830	2030	2100	2009	2030	1700	2045	2105	1915	1700
Driving														
hours	63.9	25.5	33.5	46.85		1	26	42.2		15.6	14.25	25.5	3.8	26
miles	451.3	168	413	472.5		17	311	361.6		139.5	58	257	17	301
Walking														
hours	63.6	15	18	38.53		7	25.3	181.8	72	87.5	32.5	41.25	36	18.5
miles	48.4	14	13.5	26.72		4.5	27	132.2	61.31	72	29	24	27	21.3
Other	tractor						feeder watch				bicycle			
hours	1						18.3				3			
miles	7										2.5			
Owling														
hours	2	1	2	0.75				1.6		1		0.5		
miles	27		0.5	5						0				
Stationary														
hours	19.5	3	5.5	6.95		17.5		11.4	5.5	17.5	14	12	4.5	
Total														
Species	166	120	113	131	98	124	136	132	134	115	138	134	136	113
Total Individuals	6105	2713	1268	10274	790	6067	14376	4925	6479	3600	5842	4172	4174	1284

**Table 3. 2017 Maryland May Count: Eastern Shore and total summary.**

	CE	KE	TA	DO	CN	SO	WI	WO	Total	
Parties		4	1	10	9	13	4	6	3	285
Observers		4	2	20	12	14	6	9	4	416
Start time	0545	0630	0400	0330	0430	0530	0553	0842		
Stop time	1827	2015	2030	2100	2100	1830	1700	1839		
Driving										
hours		7.25	40	49		35	12	7.25	19	493.6
miles		42.5	282	566		359	131.8	135	103	4601.2
Walking										
hours	15	6	29	24		17	5.5	13.5		776.98
miles	11	3.5	12	44		12	5.5	4.75		602.18
Other					golf cart					
hours						1			23.3	
miles						0.5			10	
Owling										
hours				3.5	6		1		19.35	
miles				50	51		2		135.5	
Stationary										
hours	2.5	1				12	7.3	10.25		150.4
Total Species	114	98	141	167		131	100	93	120	242
Total Individuals	1244	3376	5680	10,846		7326	1741	1868	3792	107,942



**Figure 1. Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*).** Female; Point Lookout State Park, St. Mary's County, Maryland; observed on 13 May 2017 and photographed on 14 May 2017 by Patty Craig.



**Figure 2. American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) with Black-bellied Plovers (*Pluvialis squatarola*).** Tolchester, Kent County, Maryland; 13 May 2017; photographed by Nancy Martin.

**Table 4. 2017 Maryland May Count: Western Shore observed species.**

Species	GA	AL	WA	FR	MO	CA	HO	BA	PG	AA	CH	CT	SM	HA
Snow Goose														
Canada Goose	203		152	353	10	387	702	202	207	163	288	69	113	37
Mute Swan							1							
Tundra Swan														
Wood Duck	101	16	10	40	13	8	46	21	76	13	47	12	11	2
Blue-winged Teal		1												
Northern Shoveler										2				
Gadwall											2			
American Wigeon														
Mallard	52	15	50	122	3	24	112	95	50	49	60	90	18	5
American Black Duck	2				1						1	3		
Canvasback												1		
Redhead														
Ring-necked Duck	3				2									
Lesser Scaup										1				
Common Eider												1		
Surf Scoter														
White-winged Scoter														
Black Scoter												1		
Bufflehead										3				
Hooded Merganser	1				8		1	1	1		3			
Common Merganser	5				1	2								
Red-breasted Merganser		1									6			
Ruddy Duck	6	2	5					17			8	8		
duck sp.														
Northern Bobwhite		1									2	1		
Ruffed Grouse	5	2												
Wild Turkey	40	3	11	4			7	9	7		48			
Pied-billed Grebe					1									
Horned Grebe												1		
Rock Pigeon	34	85	55	117		70	55	67	94	4	2	7	12	17
Mourning Dove	111	71	117	350	24	184	343	105	108	91	160	103	84	30
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	4		2	1		1	3	4	1	2	1		3
Black-billed Cuckoo	7	1		1				1						
Common Nighthawk					1		3							
Chuck-will's-widow											1			
Eastern Whip-poor-will	1	1	2											
Chimney Swift	13	68	49	123	33	64	159	207	88	30	111	53	6	19
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	26	9	3	11	1	4	19	8	4	8	9	6	6	1
Clapper Rail										2				
King Rail														
Virginia Rail	3											1		
Sora	1							1						
Common Gallinule					1									
Sandhill Crane	1													
Black-necked Stilt														
American Oystercatcher														
Black-bellied Plover	3											29		
American Golden-Plover														
Semipalmated Plover											1	15		

Species	GA	AL	WA	FR	MO	CA	HO	BA	PG	AA	CH	CT	SM	HA
Killdeer	14	10	4	19		4	24	1	8	6	12	5	11	
Ruddy Turnstone			1											
Sanderling														
Dunlin													3	
Least Sandpiper	4	2		2					16		1	6	12	1
White-rumped Sandpiper	3										1			
Pectoral Sandpiper														
Semipalmated Sandpiper	6								3				38	
sandpiper sp.														
Short-billed Dowitcher	39													
Long-billed Dowitcher	1													
American Woodcock	3	1	2									3		
Wilson's Snipe														
Spotted Sandpiper	30	15	9	4	1	2	6	14	10	4	8	4	3	
Solitary Sandpiper	10	4	2	12	3	3	55	2	17	8	5	2	3	
Lesser Yellowlegs	8	2		1			1							
Willet										3				
Greater Yellowlegs	7	2											9	
yellowlegs sp.														
Bonaparte's Gull	5	1						1					1	
Laughing Gull								2		6	9	283		
Ring-billed Gull	1	28						165		20	55	34		
Herring Gull								11		19	8	13		
Lesser Black-backed Gull									1	7	19	19		
Great Black-backed Gull										1		4		
gull sp.														
Least Tern									5					
Caspian Tern									1	1	5	1	4	
Black Tern														
Common Tern	1									3		3		
Förster's Tern	1								1	1	7	7	3	
Royal Tern										6		7		
Black Skimmer														
Common Loon	5	2	1							1	1	3		
Double-crested Cormorant	14		12	6	2	6	7	53	25	18	124	37	381	2
American White Pelican													133	
Brown Pelican														
American Bittern		1												
Least Bittern									1					
Great Blue Heron	4	1	9	24	2	7	32	12	21	38	31	19	48	4
Great Egret				2		1	3	1	1	2	1	5		
Snowy Egret										6	8	5		
Little Blue Heron										6				
Tricolored Heron														
Cattle Egret												1		
Green Heron	5	5	2	7	4	1	27	7	17	2	6	9	2	1
Black-crowned Night-Heron				14				6	1					
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron								1	2	12				
Glossy Ibis								1						
Black Vulture	5	2	19	62		86	136	26	49	44	180	33	47	5
Turkey Vulture	68	18	66	146	9	69	149	28	85	34	145	85	67	22
Osprey	5		1	3	2	1	38	29	51	39	254	62	50	4
Bald Eagle	6	2	3	5	1	6	9	11	21	6	85	13	11	3

Species	GA	AL	WA	FR	MO	CA	HO	BA	PG	AA	CH	CT	SM	HA
Northern Harrier				1							1		2	
Sharp-shinned Hawk							1						1	
Cooper's Hawk	2		1	5		2	5	2	1	1	1	1		
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		7	23	1	3	51	8	17	8	8	5	1	2
Broad-winged Hawk	7	1					1		1				2	
Red-tailed Hawk	12	2	9	26		13	20	10	20	4	13	4	4	3
hawk sp.												1		
Barn Owl												12		
Eastern Screech-Owl	1					1	2					2		1
Great Horned Owl					1			1				1		
Barred Owl	5		5	6	3	4	2	7	10	3	3	1	1	
Belted Kingfisher	2	2	3	8	2	13	18	5	6	6	5	7	3	2
Red-headed Woodpecker	8			12		5		3			2	1	2	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	38	34	30	93	20	78	228	49	72	62	45	56	12	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7					1					2			
Downy Woodpecker	34	15	20	47	11	44	98	33	22	30	15	25	6	5
Hairy Woodpecker	13	4	4	16	5	14	20	4	10	5	5	5	2	
Downy/Hairy Woodpecker													1	
Northern Flicker	47	12	3	11	7	19	37	22	11	11	6	6	2	3
Pileated Woodpecker	18	9	13	23	3	7	52	15	18	11	20	11	1	3
American Kestrel	3	2		8		2	1	1	7	1	1	1	1	
Merlin	2											1		
Peregrine Falcon				4										
Olive-sided Flycatcher							1							
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	4	5	15	1	5	19	7	6	9	11	13	4	4
Acadian Flycatcher	1	3	8		7	10	35	2	31	1	22	17	4	1
Alder Flycatcher	1	1						2						
Willow Flycatcher	2			1	1	2	2				1		1	
Least Flycatcher	6	5		3		1	4	3			1		3	
<i>Empidonax</i> sp.					1									
Eastern Phoebe	32	26	16	35	4	38	67	16	18	9	33	20	2	6
Great Crested Flycatcher	8	11	20	49	11	38	88	20	37	21	34	31	30	3
Eastern Kingbird	19	4	21	86		45	82	41	65		31	14	19	8
White-eyed Vireo	2	2	2	10		17	29	6	47	12	23	49	7	4
Yellow-throated Vireo	3	1	6	8	1	4	14	3	19	2	12	13	2	4
Blue-headed Vireo	25			4		1	2	2	5	5	1	3		
Philadelphia Vireo	1													
Warbling Vireo	1	7	18	37	3	5	23	19	8	1	2	1	1	
Red-eyed Vireo	87	69	50	117	7	52	280	38	171	67	88	68	21	3
Blue Jay	107	37	57	152	11	138	379	81	65	76	48	54	42	35
American Crow	159	64	114	219	15	167	479	89	93	104	224	129	92	46
Fish Crow	2	12	71	1	40	63	16	32	10	15	16	9	3	
crow sp.				44			210	10		13	1	5		
Common Raven	21	11	3	5		1	6			1				
Horned Lark			10	15		11	25		3			5		2
Purple Martin	2		21	27	3	18	55	41	15		163	46	31	8
Tree Swallow	154	49	65	192	6	294	239	76	490	33	73	40	12	58
N. Rough-winged Swallow	19	47	19	123	7	33	127	69	54	11	10	20	2	8
Bank Swallow	30	13		10		1		3	11			4		
Cliff Swallow	16	10	23	6		39	10		12					
Barn Swallow	338	145	88	364	16	304	371	122	227	237	192	193	171	62
Carolina Chickadee	32	138	17	83	261	84	92	89	86	87	40	9		
Black-capped Chickadee	120	20	2											

Species	GA	AL	WA	FR	MO	CA	HO	BA	PG	AA	CH	CT	SM	HA
Tufted Titmouse	71	50	48	99	9	92	277	47	96	91	107	77	47	13
Red-breasted Nuthatch		5										1		
White-breasted Nuthatch	29	22	12	34	7	44	73	20	15	16	9	18	3	4
Brown-headed Nuthatch											2	5	4	
Brown Creeper	11	1									1	1		
House Wren	63	16	17	66	6	62	119	47	9	12	4	5		5
Winter Wren		3												
Marsh Wren	2								3	3	1	4	1	1
Carolina Wren	26	45	47	178	21	78	313	57	127	59	120	95	30	8
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	23	10	13	81	12	48	186	82	143	82	60	41	9	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet		5												
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	1				1			1			1	1	
Eastern Bluebird	35	20	69	147	2	101	212	56	92	49	110	71	28	22
Veery	2			5	1	26	8	7	8			14	2	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush					1					1		1	1	
Swainson's Thrush	2	2	1	7	2	9	16	10	9	2	1	4		1
Hermit Thrush		10				1					1			
Wood Thrush	23	14	37	118	16	74	195	26	86	29	39	44	13	5
American Robin	441	243	193	759	25	271	597	362	194	147	71	78	125	66
Gray Catbird	135	70	76	277	16	321	492	164	71	38	31	39	15	32
Brown Thrasher	42	24	19	57	1	36	35	5	26	4	31	22	37	2
Northern Mockingbird	1	20	59	113	2	55	160	40	43	61	103	45	52	21
European Starling	247	166	361	1186	6	445	805	291	315	192	296	191	166	134
Cedar Waxwing	4	9	6	76	42	36	224	35	155	55	121	25	43	4
House Sparrow	55	95	53	278	22	104	285	185	63	38	64	56	76	29
House Finch	30	46	40	145	9	120	168	76	58	49	45	48	37	8
Purple Finch	18			5	1	3	2		1	2				1
Pine Siskin	1													
American Goldfinch	197	106	127	295	38	234	415	112	89	94	122	91	13	6
Eastern Towhee	138	29	36	67	1	45	142	15	54	11	26	34	10	5
Chipping Sparrow	144	54	67	210	2	116	300	76	114	85	132	109	61	24
Field Sparrow	51	17	38	65		21	45	16	13	6	20	12	5	3
Vesper Sparrow	1					1								
Savannah Sparrow	6	1				33	7	18		8	5	3	15	
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	3	11	21		4	27	3	10	4	14	9	23	1
Henslow's Sparrow		1												
Saltmarsh Sparrow														
Seaside Sparrow													1	
Song Sparrow	161	64	24	164	10	92	138	30	26	50	5	20	23	14
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	1				1			1					2
Swamp Sparrow	27						4	15	11	3	2	7	2	1
White-throated Sparrow	6			12	1	40	80	22	31	11	1	4	1	1
White-crowned Sparrow	6	10		4		1	5	4		1		1		
Dark-eyed Junco	6													
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	2	19	6		1	8		12	4	11	8	7	1
Bobolink	73	4	3	5		4	57	25	40	22	11	42	8	19
Eastern Meadowlark	18	7	12	40		6	15	9	10	5	8	9	31	1
Orchard Oriole	5	9	6	33	3	12	41	21	49	13	25	15	6	1
Baltimore Oriole	105	16	51	80	7	46	107	41	24	5	6	2		8
Red-winged Blackbird	398	115	21	571	48	184	626	181	427	189	276	232	210	59
Brown-headed Cowbird	16	20	35	111	6	63	210	61	116	47	60	69	42	8
Rusty Blackbird			8							2		1		
Common Grackle	182	110	217	443	26	113	167	85	143	167	263	260	628	39

Species	GA	AL	WA	FR	MO	CA	HO	BA	PG	AA	CH	CT	SM	HA
Boat-tailed Grackle														
blackbird sp.						8								3
Ovenbird	97	18	10	50	11	42	192	27	111	20	60	32	23	4
Worm-eating Warbler	1	5	5	5	1	5	13	1	4	2	3	2	4	4
Louisiana Waterthrush	2	5	3	11		7	38	5	10	2	13	8	3	3
Northern Waterthrush	18	3	2	5	11	3	13	10	13	2	3	1	8	
waterthrush sp.														3
Golden-winged Warbler			2											
Lawrence's Warbler							1							
Blue-winged Warbler	3		4				1	4	3	9				1
Black-and-white Warbler	28		7	15	7	13	78	35	27	8	10	5		8
Prothonotary Warbler	2				9	3		1	1	3	9	7	1	5
Tennessee Warbler	5	2				2		2	1					1
Nashville Warbler	3						3		2	2				
Mourning Warbler							1	2						
Kentucky Warbler	1		1					4	1	1	1	3	6	6
Common Yellowthroat	174	29	25	70	6	93	254	57	121	27	82	105	26	24
Hooded Warbler	10	5	5	8		3	2		10	4	30	22	2	
American Redstart	56	6	2	24	7	15	110	37	66	14	17	13	5	4
Cape May Warbler	6	1		5			3	2	2		2		2	2
Cerulean Warbler	12		1	1										9
Northern Parula	13	3	4	29	8	18	141	23	73	16	49	50	10	2
Magnolia Warbler	20	1			12	2	4	17	16	16	5	2	3	2
Bay-breasted Warbler	3		1	2	1	5	1	2	2					
Blackburnian Warbler	26	3	1	7		1	4	2	2	4	1			7
Yellow Warbler	75	25	7	50	5	25	91	34	29	5	10	18	8	9
Chestnut-sided Warbler	70	4	7	14	2		21	1	10			1	3	4
Blackpoll Warbler	5		1	13	4	7	27	8	6	3	20	20	2	7
Black-throated Blue Warbler	24		4	31	7	16	63	14	18	8	9	11	1	5
Palm Warbler					1	2	3	4						
Pine Warbler	2	6	5			4	4		18		15	9	8	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	36	6	2	19	11	51	143	84	55	5	22	9		24
Yellow-throated Warbler	2		2	1			1		2		6	7	4	2
Prairie Warbler		2	14	4				16	1	8	2	13	4	4
Black-throated Green Warbler	53	5	7	26	3	8	22	10	19	3	2	8	2	4
Canada Warbler	3			2	1		5	3	2		1	1	7	
Wilson's Warbler		1	1		1	2	1	5	3		4			6
warbler sp.														1
Summer Tanager										16	1	10	19	5
Scarlet Tanager	66	30	18	52	7	92	109	79	67	28	46	20	6	9
Northern Cardinal	100	100	133	459	53	250	853	161	207	257	219	180	133	80
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	72	5	5	12	3	18	20	4	8	7	5	4	5	4
Blue Grosbeak					5	1	12		35	5	24	16	24	1
Indigo Bunting	63	32	47	107	4	47	166	19	133	77	93	85	79	6
Dickcissel					1	3			2	2				

**Table 5. 2017 Maryland May Count: Eastern Shore and total observed species.**

Species	CE	KE	TA	DO	CN	SO	WI	WO	Total
Snow Goose					1			1	2
Canada Goose	17	56	111	291	127	83	125	129	3825
Mute Swan				1	1	5			8
Tundra Swan					2				2
Wood Duck	3	10	63	51	26		9	6	584
Blue-winged Teal									1
Northern Shoveler									2
Gadwall					2			1	5
American Wigeon							20	20	
Mallard	11	25	75	232	37	9	46		1180
American Black Duck				5	38	56			106
Canvasback					5				6
Redhead					1				1
Ring-necked Duck				1					6
Lesser Scaup		1	2	2					6
Common Eider								1	2
Surf Scoter				67	3				70
White-winged Scoter					1				1
Black Scoter				22					23
Bufflehead				1			3		7
Hooded Merganser									14
Common Merganser									8
Red-breasted Merganser				1	3				11
Ruddy Duck		2		112		1		10	171
duck sp.				4					4
Northern Bobwhite				3	10	2	1	1	21
Ruffed Grouse									7
Wild Turkey	7	11	30	50	38		11	7	283
Pied-billed Grebe									1
Horned Grebe									1
Rock Pigeon		1	9	20	68	5	6	1	729
Mourning Dove	13	51	82	117	143	21	47	10	2365
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2		4	4	2		1	4	40
Black-billed Cuckoo									10
Common Nighthawk	1				1				6
Chuck-will's-widow				7	7	1			16
Eastern Whip-poor-will					2				6
Chimney Swift	13	65	46	52	241		1	5	1446
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	3	9	12	12	3	4	2	162
Clapper Rail				10		2	3	1	16
King Rail								1	3
Virginia Rail		2	3	34		5			48
Sora									2
Common Gallinule					2				3
Sandhill Crane									1
Black-necked Stilt					2	15			17
American Oystercatcher					4		4		8
Black-bellied Plover	654	16		6	15	9	5	806	1543
American Golden-Plover		1							1

Species	CE	KE	TA	DO	CN	SO	WI	WO	Total
Semipalmated Plover	12	87	1	50	34	15	10	18	243
Killdeer	2	5	13	37	25	1	2	3	206
Ruddy Turnstone				15				53	69
Sanderling				6			2	8	
Dunlin		6	7	195			209		420
Least Sandpiper	37	60	43	299	14		70	18	585
White-rumped Sandpiper				1					4
Pectoral Sandpiper	1								2
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1			78	12		3	86	227
sandpiper sp.				5					5
Short-billed Dowitcher		2		17		11		10	79
Long-billed Dowitcher									1
American Woodcock					2				11
Wilson's Snipe					8	2			10
Spotted Sandpiper		4		58	10		4	1	187
Solitary Sandpiper	1		7	12	3	1		1	151
Lesser Yellowlegs	21	19	4	35	17			8	116
Willet			1	50		34			88
Greater Yellowlegs	17	2	3	51	16	2	12	25	146
yellowlegs sp.			1						1
Bonaparte's Gull				2				1	11
Laughing Gull	90	2	331	1018	1357	353	111	415	3977
Ring-billed Gull	5	288	23	45	113		4	12	793
Herring Gull			20	85	2	25	9	192	384
Lesser Black-backed Gull		1	11	21	2	2	2	29	114
gull sp.					4				9
Least Tern	7	14		8	4	3		17	58
Caspian Tern		4		2		7			25
Black Tern					2				2
Common Tern				11	2	5		30	55
Forster's Tern	23	12	89	10	32	6	32		224
Royal Tern		1	39			4	60		117
Black Skimmer							25		25
Common Loon		4		1					18
Double-crested Cormorant	26	688	160	22	24	69	130		1806
American White Pelican				1					1
Brown Pelican				5	143		6		287
American Bittern						1			2
Least Bittern				1					2
Great Blue Heron	14	18	93	92	26	12	31	4	542
Great Egret	3	1	9	72	1	34	3	7	147
Snowy Egret			11	38		21	2	29	120
Little Blue Heron				2			1	9	
Tricolored Heron				1					1
Cattle Egret	11		13						25
Green Heron	2		11	16	5	1	2	1	133
Black-crowned Night-Heron							4		25
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron									15
Glossy Ibis			2	4	2	2		100	111
Black Vulture	3	35	33	37	86	2	11	6	907
Turkey Vulture	17	93	199	232	213	35	76	109	1965
Osprey	5	48	140	110	45	9	25	1	922

Species	CE	KE	TA	DO	CN	SO	WI	WO	Total
Bald Eagle	3	21	35	109	20	11	14	6	401
Northern Harrier				2		3			9
Sharp-shinned Hawk				3	1				6
Cooper's Hawk	1	2		4	3	1			31
- Red-shouldered Hawk	4	1	1	5		2			148
Broad-winged Hawk	1								13
Red-tailed Hawk	5		9	10	5	3		2	174
hawk sp.									1
Barn Owl									12
Eastern Screech-Owl				4	3	2	1		17
Great Horned Owl				1		8			12
Barred Owl		3				8			61
Belted Kingfisher	3		1	5	3				94
Red-headed Woodpecker			2	14					49
Red-bellied Woodpecker	15	7	45	24	43	3	6	2	969
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker									10
Downy Woodpecker	5	5	15	14	16	3	7	3	473
Hairy Woodpecker			2	2	7			2	115
Downy/Hairy Woodpecker									1
Northern Flicker		1	4	17	12	4		1	236
Pileated Woodpecker	1	3	9	12	16	1	1	2	249
American Kestrel				2	2				32
Merlin			1	1					5
Peregrine Falcon									4
Olive-sided Flycatcher									1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	6	2	15	8	12		2	6	157
Acadian Flycatcher	6		1	4	5	2	3	7	170
Alder Flycatcher									4
Willow Flycatcher									10
Least Flycatcher									26
<i>Empidonax</i> sp.									1
Eastern Phoebe	4		5	3	25		1	2	362
Great Crested Flycatcher	12	18	63	103	78	20	26	14	735
Eastern Kingbird	11	22	25	47	26	5	8	3	582
White-eyed Vireo	9		10	15	12	9	14	13	292
Yellow-throated Vireo	3		2	3		2		3	105
Blue-headed Vireo			4		1				53
Philadelphia Vireo									1
Warbling Vireo		2	2	1					131
Red-eyed Vireo	35	24	39	26	38	4	11	10	1305
Blue Jay	16	15	34	54	91	3	17	2	1514
American Crow	30	21	112	189	87	26	36	43	2538
Fish Crow	11	10	20	10	21	1	9	4	376
crow sp.					81	17		7	388
Common Raven									49
Horned Lark	2	16	11	9	49		2	34	194
Purple Martin	2	59	129	137	129		22	52	960
Tree Swallow	45	50	258	682	223	29	4	72	3144
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	14	1	5	8	11		5	1	594
Bank Swallow	12	7	2	12	2			2	109
Cliff Swallow		6	3		5				130
Barn Swallow	28	113	195	467	172	40	47	99	3991
Carolina Chickadee	18	21	41	52	75	7	24	10	1266

Species	CE	KE	TA	DO	CN	SO	WI	WO	Total
Black-capped Chickadee									142
Tufted Titmouse	24	24	56	54	69	5	21	17	1394
Red-breasted Nuthatch									6
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	2	9	2	12		2		336
Brown-headed Nuthatch		1	3	83		11			109
Brown Creeper									14
House Wren	4		8	21	8	18	8	1	499
Winter Wren									3
Marsh Wren			2	38	1	47	1		104
Carolina Wren	11	38	57	84	61	7	35	17	1514
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	16	10	2	35	8	2	2	28	895
Golden-crowned Kinglet									5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet									7
Eastern Bluebird	4	15	79	103	73	8	3	10	1309
Veery		8							82
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1								5
Swainson's Thrush	2		1						69
Hermit Thrush					4		1		17
Wood Thrush	32	11	47	5	17	1	2	8	842
American Robin	21	146	186	276	288	28	85	20	4622
Gray Catbird	26	6	32	36	50	3	9	1	1940
Brown Thrasher	4	16	29	16	25		6	2	439
Northern Mockingbird	7	33	66	90	82	7	15	12	1087
European Starling	15	114	154	425	853	37	221	93	6713
Cedar Waxwing	25	33	1	8	82			3	987
House Sparrow	6	82	29	57	121	2	5	20	1725
House Finch	2	23	20	12	54	9	11		1010
Purple Finch									33
Pine Siskin									1
American Goldfinch	6	39	42	71	81	5	9	9	2201
Eastern Towhee	9	8	6	26	11	5	1		679
Chipping Sparrow	18	51	123	108	100	13	32	41	1980
Field Sparrow	3		12	10	23		4	5	369
Vesper Sparrow					4				6
Savannah Sparrow	3		5	1		2			107
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	2	4	11	7		1	4	161
Henslow's Sparrow									1
Saltmarsh Sparrow					3		12		15
Seaside Sparrow					76		91	1	174
Song Sparrow	6	1	3	4	8	6	2		851
Lincoln's Sparrow									7
Swamp Sparrow	1	1	2	3					79
White-throated Sparrow	4	12	4	3	3	1			237
White-crowned Sparrow				1					33
Dark-eyed Junco									6
Yellow-breasted Chat	3		13	6	6	3		3	115
Bobolink	40			17					370
Eastern Meadowlark	1	1		25	5	8	1	3	215
Orchard Oriole	9	15	10	29	11	4	6	6	329
Baltimore Oriole	14	5	14	3	4				538
Red-winged Blackbird	35	179	385	928	305	207	65	51	5692
Brown-headed Cowbird	23	24	40	204	64	2	34	22	1277
Rusty Blackbird								11	

Species	CE	KE	TA	DO	CN	SO	WI	WO	Total
Common Grackle	3	218	477	955	520	81	186	189	5472
Boat-tailed Grackle				27		11		2	40
blackbird sp.									11
Ovenbird	40		24	40	13	7	9	27	857
Worm-eating Warbler	7		5	6	2			8	83
Louisiana Waterthrush	3		1	2	1	1		4	122
Northern Waterthrush	2		2	2	1				99
waterthrush sp.									3
Golden-winged Warbler									2
Lawrence's Warbler									1
Blue-winged Warbler		2							27
Black-and-white Warbler	12	3	6	4	6		1		273
Prothonotary Warbler				1	7	11	1	2	70
Tennessee Warbler									13
Nashville Warbler	1				1				12
Mourning Warbler									3
Kentucky Warbler	1		3	2	3			3	40
Common Yellowthroat	18	17	76	125	29	28	12	7	1405
Hooded Warbler	8				1				110
American Redstart	17	7	11	11	1				423
Cape May Warbler				1					26
Cerulean Warbler									23
Northern Parula	6	6	3	8	15		2	5	484
Magnolia Warbler	12		8	1	1				129
Bay-breasted Warbler									17
Blackburnian Warbler				1					59
Yellow Warbler	6	2	10	10	3	1		5	428
Chestnut-sided Warbler	8		2	1	1				149
Blackpoll Warbler	4		5	2	10				144
Black-throated Blue Warbler	7	4	4	5					231
Palm Warbler					3				13
Pine Warbler	7	3	21	81	11	10	14	11	230
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9	2	11	10	22				521
Yellow-throated Warbler				1			1	8	37
Prairie Warbler	1		1	10	4	1	3	4	92
Black-throated Green Warbler	4		2	5					183
Canada Warbler	2			1					28
Wilson's Warbler				1					25
warbler sp.									1
Summer Tanager			4	23	2	1	8	15	104
Scarlet Tanager	21	6	11	4	7			2	680
Northern Cardinal	28	151	116	136	154	16	42	35	3863
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2			1	1				176
Blue Grosbeak	2	12	31	48	34	1	5	10	266
Indigo Bunting	12	11	32	95	48	2	17	20	1195
Dickcissel				1					9

**2017 Maryland Fall Count**

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The annual Maryland Fall Count is held on the third weekend in September with the choice of Saturday or Sunday at the discretion of the county and/or compiler. In 2017, data from 12 of Maryland's 23 counties were compiled. Five counties counted on Saturday, 16 September; six on Sunday, 17 September (Table 1). Receiving results from eleven counties is a decrease in participation for Fall Count. For several counties this seasonal count has been a long-held tradition, with this year being the 27<sup>th</sup> count for Allegany, 24<sup>th</sup> for Howard, and 22<sup>nd</sup> for Dorchester. For the first time in over 16 years, Baltimore did not participate in the count. As an experiment, the author collected all eBird accounts from Baltimore on 16 September and compiled the results. The results are included in the results below, but did not exhibit the diversity of coverage and supporting data that an organized count would have.

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**Table 1: 2017 Maryland Fall Count: participating counties, county codes, survey dates, and compilers.**

County	Code	Survey Date	Compiler
Allegany	AL	17 September 2017	Chuck Hager
Washington	WA	16 September 2017	Doris Berger
Carroll	CA	16 September 2017	Don Jewell
Howard	HO	16 September 2017	Mike McClure, Chuck Stirrat
Baltimore	BA	16 September 2017	Chuck Stirrat (eBird reports)
Prince George's	PG	17 September 2017	Dave Mozurkewich
Calvert	CT	17 September 2017	Sherman Suter
Kent	KE	17 September 2017	Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin
Caroline	CN	16 September 2017	Debby Bennett
Talbot	TA	17 September 2017	David Palmer
Dorchester	DO	16 September 2017	Harry Armistead
Somerset	SO	17 September 2017	Paul Bystrak

The weather varied over the extent of the state and from Saturday to Sunday, but less than observed in prior counts. Morning temperatures were in the low to mid 60s °F, rising to highs in the low to mid 80s °F. All reported calm to light winds, generally increasing as the day proceeded. Cloud coverage was highly variable with partly cloudy conditions predominating. There were no reports of significant precipitation for either day, except for Dorchester which had a brief but heavy shower late on Saturday afternoon followed by a rainbow.

A total of 277 field observers in 136 parties turned up 199 species and 64,250 individual birds. They spent a total of 480.7 hours and covered 310.3 miles on foot and spent 42.6 hours stationary. Birders spent 186.5 hours and 1698.9 miles birding by car. Observers covered 22.0 miles in 12.8 hours by other modes of transport, including by boat. Participants in seven counties reported spending 23.6 hours traveling 119.9 miles while owling. Feeder watchers spent 24.3 hours (Table 2).

Tundra Swan, a write-in species was found in two counties, Kent (1) and Dorchester (2). Species with only a single individual found statewide included Gadwall (Prince George's), Ring-necked Duck (Dorchester), Common Merganser (Baltimore), Hudsonian Godwit (Dorchester), White-rumped Sandpiper (Talbot), Western Sandpiper (Dorchester), Willet (Talbot), Red-necked Phalarope (Dorchester), Bonaparte's Gull (Caroline), Common Loon (Dorchester), Peregrine Falcon (Calvert), Olive-sided Flycatcher (Dorchester), Swamp Sparrow (Dorchester), Prothonotary Warbler (Howard), Connecticut Warbler (Kent), and Kentucky Warbler (Prince George's)(Table 3).

The following highlights were noted by compilers and the author. Marcia Balestri's visit to Hurlock Wastewater Treatment Plant (Dorchester) found 28 American Golden-Plovers (Figure 1) and a Hudsonian Godwit (Figure 2). The YMOS (Youth Division of the Maryland Ornithological Society) group located a Red-necked Phalarope on Taylor's Island (Dorchester). Statewide there were 393 Brown Pelicans with the 387 in Dorchester being a new high. Forster's Terns were abundant this count with a total of 1518 (high for prior 4 years was 1039). The Dickcissels, one each in Calvert and Dorchester, were the first reported in the last five counts. A lone female Common Merganser was continuing at Loch Raven Reservoir.

There were 37 species that were observed in only one county. Twenty of these were observed in Dorchester County, with the rest being 4 each in Prince George's and Caroline, 2 each in Calvert, Kent, and Talbot, and 1 each in Allegany, Howard, and Baltimore County. Fourteen species were reported for all 12 counts which is lower than normal largely due to some counties having very limited coverage.

Thank you to all participants and especially the compilers. I urge more participants to enjoy the experience and join in one of the 2018 counts that will be held on 15 or 16 September. I hope additional counties will have volunteers who choose to organize a count in the future and reverse the trend of decreasing interest and participation in organized seasonal counts.

**Table 2. 2017 Maryland Fall Count: summary.**

	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	PG	CT	KE	CN	TA	DO	SO	Total
Total Species	79	58	95	123	104	116	126	125	105	103	165	32	199
Total Birds	1903	1514	3895	11,776	3066	9475	6154	4788	4853	4459	12,172	195	64,250
Start Time	0648			0525	0230	0630	0622	0640	0530	0600	0230		0230
Stop Time	1600			2300	2300	1950	1947	1940	2100	1900	1915		2300
Parties	6		9	46	17	15	12	4	9	7	10	1	136
Individual People	6		19	65	82	20	17	7	18	22	19	2	277
Hours Driving Miles	18.3	13.0	18.0	35.4		14.8	6.5	12.0	20.0	14.0	32.0	2.5	186.5
Driving Hours Miles	154.4	98.0	239.0	397.6		104.0	17.6	125.0	31.5	126.8	397.0	8.0	1698.9
Walking Hours Miles	12.5		39.5	168.2	22.4	68.3	34.5	18.0	32.5	27.8	56.0	1.0	480.7
Walking Hours Miles	8.0		27.5	126.8	11.0	39.8	24.6	14.0	12.0	17.6	28.0	1.0	310.3
Boating Hours Miles					5.8								5.8
Boating Hours Miles					5.0								5.0
Stationary Hours	3.0	2.5	0.5	17.7	6.5		12.4						42.6
Feeder Hours			1.5	5.8		6.0			11.0				24.3
Owling Hours Miles			0.5	1.1		1.3	0.9		2.8	2.0	15.0		23.6
Owling Hours Miles			1.0	0.9		0.7	0.3		14.0	20.0	83.0		119.9
Other Hours Miles			1.3			1.0			3.0	1.7			7.0
Other Hours Miles			0.0			3.0			2.0	12.0			17.0



**Figure 1.** Multiple American Golden-Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*) and one Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*). Hurlock Wastewater Treatment Plant, Dorchester County, Maryland; 16 September 2017; photographed by Marcia Balestri.



**Figure 2.** Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). Hurlock Wastewater Treatment Plant, Dorchester County, Maryland; 16 September 2017; photographed by Marcia Balestri.

**Table 3. 2017 Maryland Fall Count: observed species.**

Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	PG	CT	KE	CN	TA	DO	SO	Total
Canada Goose	108	120	331	1123	13	520	181	85	241	74	418	23	3237
Tundra Swan									1		2		3
Wood Duck	25	1	4	20	8	95	4	12	17	15	109		310
Blue-winged Teal								6		2	12		20
Northern Shoveler								14		5	43		62
Gadwall							1						1
Mallard	30	3	72	115	28	138	169	60	50	46	597		1308
American Black Duck						10	3	2			25		40
Northern Pintail								2	2		3		7
Green-winged Teal	4				124	2	3		60	38			231
Ring-necked Duck											1		1
Black Scoter							4			1			5
Common Merganser						1							1
Ruddy Duck								1		1	19		21
Northern Bobwhite											3		3
Wild Turkey	28	1		4		5		37	29		3		107
Pied-billed Grebe			1	1		2	2				6		12
Rock Pigeon	105	40	60	110	66	393	8	10	109	70	39		1010
Mourning Dove	72	86	94	464	32	561	83	42	160	67	145	12	1818
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	5	6	3	9	8	3	2		1	8		46
Common Nighthawk			2	11	2						5		20
Chimney Swift	76	26	24	116	541	191	1	4	465	340	4		1788
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	8	7	21	52	12	14	17	13	31	7	21	1	204
Clapper Rail											2		2
King Rail											2		2
Virginia Rail						1	1			1	23		26
Sora						2							2
Common Gallinule											2		2
American Oystercatcher											2		2
Black-bellied Plover											9		9
American Golden-Plover												28	28
Semipalmated Plover												32	32
Killdeer	29		5	50	12	28	6	13	26	2	29		200
Hudsonian Godwit											1		1
Sanderling											4		4
Least Sandpiper					2	5		4	1		40		52
White-rumped Sandpiper										1			1
Pectoral Sandpiper	2					5					19		26
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1							3			34		38
Western Sandpiper											1		1
American Woodcock								1	1				2

Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	PG	CT	KE	CN	TA	DO	SO	Total
Wilson's Snipe									9				9
Spotted Sandpiper				3					7	2	1		13
Solitary Sandpiper	1			7	2						1		11
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	3		4		1	13			30	1	55	
Willet										1			1
Greater Yellowlegs	2	1			1		1			31	7	43	
Red-necked Phalarope										1			1
Bonaparte's Gull									1				1
Laughing Gull				10	922	975	625	16	265	884	53	3750	
Ring-billed Gull	4	46	111	170	92	110	20		80			633	
Herring Gull		2		250	13	2	72	478				817	
Great Black-backed Gull		1	593	9	1	8	117	1	117	1	730		
unidentified gull	3			50		48			7			108	
Caspian Tern	2	1	12	3	7				13			38	
Common Tern					25		2	5	45	1	78		
Forster's Tern				5	600	133	6	130	644			1518	
Royal Tern				64	8		39	102	4	217			
unidentified tern				25					2			27	
Common Loon									1	1			
Double-crested Cormorant	1	15	35	88	480	95	49	1500	617	17	2897		
American White Pelican									3			3	
Brown Pelican					4			2	387			393	
Great Blue Heron	3	13	35	12	24	16	39	12	24	82	1	261	
Great Egret	1	4	3	10	3	6	1	8	162			198	
Snowy Egret					29	1	2	16	78	11	137		
Little Blue Heron									2			2	
Tricolored Heron									12	1	13		
Cattle Egret						1		50	44			95	
Green Heron	1	5	20	2	3	9	1	4	2			47	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				1	1	1	2					5	
Glossy Ibis									2			2	
Black Vulture	6	18	115	37	115	74	31	51	34	33		514	
Turkey Vulture	33	30	103	180	32	131	144	225	244	98	304	5	1529
Osprey	2			2	21	2	16	9	6	11	24		93
Bald Eagle	1		2	2	10	16	58	40	15	21	104	3	272
Northern Harrier	1		1	1							6		9
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1		1	20		1	9	1	7	7		47
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	4	8	3	7	2	3	2	1	8		41
unidentified <i>Accipiter</i>				2	1	1						4	
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	3	13	79	8	24	9	2	7		3		149
Broad-winged Hawk	1	75	12	24	50	3				8			173
Red-tailed Hawk	4	5	10	16	5	11	3	5	7		5		71
Eastern Screech-Owl	4		5	3		1	6	5	7	3	45		79

Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	PG	CT	KE	CN	TA	DO	SO	Total
Great Horned Owl				2	6	1	2	2	3	5	9		30
Barred Owl				3	2	7	1	3	4	2	8		40
Belted Kingfisher				2	5	8	27	5	12	9	3	4	93
Red-headed Woodpecker					9	4	1	5	9	1	3	25	57
Red-bellied Woodpecker				26	19	87	233	21	89	53	41	47	667
Downy Woodpecker				10	8	36	119	15	55	50	24	26	427
Hairy Woodpecker				4	1	1	34	9	15	8	10	6	11
Northern Flicker				18	6	23	91	15	52	21	23	11	313
Pileated Woodpecker				11	5	14	53	9	17	19	11	21	13
American Kestrel				4	5	1	8	14	19	6	6	5	27
Merlin						4		3	1		4		12
Peregrine Falcon								1					1
Olive-sided Flycatcher												1	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee				4	3	16	56	14	36	36	47	12	21
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher						1					1	1	3
Acadian Flycatcher					3			9	18	2	2		35
Trail's Flycatcher									2				2
Least Flycatcher						3		1			2	2	8
unidentified <i>Empidonax</i>					5	11		5				8	29
Eastern Phoebe				10	3	13	62	7	33	10	8	8	2
Great Crested Flycatcher				1		7	5	1	2	4	5	3	13
Eastern Kingbird					1	2		1	2	2		1	9
White-eyed Vireo					8	22	2	17	29	24	6	1	33
Yellow-throated Vireo				2		6	3	4	4	1		1	21
Blue-headed Vireo					3		2		1				6
Philadelphia Vireo						2		1	1				4
Warbling Vireo				1	1	4	5		1			1	13
Red-eyed Vireo				16	5	21	79	8	14	27	47	13	10
Blue Jay				88	39	219	631	114	203	102	114	102	130
American Crow				93	54	219	471	21	144	142	28	126	104
Fish Crow				2		6	75	2	42	41	11	139	5
unidentified crow							198	7	130	8		25	19
Common Raven				9			2	1					12
Horned Lark							2				12	53	21
Purple Martin							3	1				6	10
Tree Swallow					2	48	100		6		321	125	4
Bank Swallow												2	2
Barn Swallow						1	1		2	3	2	4	22
Carolina Chickadee					15	96	299	39	86	125	87	91	41
Black-capped Chickadee				34									34
Tufted Titmouse				42	9	84	248	18	78	128	79	80	44
White-breasted Nuthatch				32	4	45	163	20	45	37	11	13	7
Brown-headed Nuthatch								10	5		8	128	7
													158

Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	PG	CT	KE	CN	TA	DO	SO	Total	
Brown Creeper	1				1						1		3	
House Wren				7	37	6	17	9	8	3	8	31	4	130
Winter Wren						1			1				2	
Marsh Wren						1		2		1		8		12
Carolina Wren	43	30	95	383	29	139	139	97	52	50	129	5	1191	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		2		22	1	7		11	2	11	40		96	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				3		1	1				1		6	
Eastern Bluebird	10	11	63	346	62	114	61	22	43	45	79		856	
Veery				1	4		2	3	6		6	13		35
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1				2		1	1					5	
Swainson's Thrush	2		6	10	1	3	7	4		2	19		54	
Hermit Thrush									3				3	
Wood Thrush	2		12	17	1	11	7	6	1		1		58	
American Robin	69	13	67	309	79	148	18	26	109	59	89		986	
Gray Catbird	26	8	167	389	44	104	22	44	14	9	43	1	871	
Brown Thrasher			10	17	4	22	14	15	19	6	22		129	
Northern Mockingbird	7	7	54	131	16	103	38	40	47	22	64	1	530	
European Starling	213	440	755	1251	444	725	153	1008	850	178	1478		7495	
Cedar Waxwing	162	89	32	155	84	167	13	63	6	32	17		820	
House Sparrow	110	14	56	467	42	152	35	12	219	25	31		1163	
House Finch	25	10	78	207	33	95	41	4	62		6		561	
Purple Finch						3							3	
American Goldfinch	78	47	79	505	29	210	47	35	41	48	38		1157	
Eastern Towhee	13	3	9	54	4	4	12	11	4		8		122	
Chipping Sparrow	49		33	337	51	79	68	47	97	92	131		984	
Field Sparrow	13		2	10	2	5	6	8	7	1	6		60	
Vesper Sparrow									5				5	
Savannah Sparrow				15	1						8		24	
Grasshopper Sparrow					1			1					2	
Seaside Sparrow											6		6	
Song Sparrow	15	1	28	80	21	5	14	11	2		3		180	
Lincoln's Sparrow					1						1		2	
Swamp Sparrow											1		1	
unidentified sparrow				6	20					2			28	
Yellow-breasted Chat							2	2			2		6	
Bobolink					1	97	4	9	30	22	212		375	
Eastern Meadowlark				7			1				1		9	
Baltimore Oriole				2	1	1	2			5			11	
Red-winged Blackbird	4	61	14	60	721	47	28	31	45	1027			2038	
Brown-headed Cowbird	100	121	525	401	400	50	150	225	57	634			2663	
Common Grackle	11	200		3	1009	2	5	1	15	157			1403	
unidentified blackbird	100												100	
Ovenbird		5	6	3	2	3	3	2		4			28	

Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	PG	CT	KE	CN	TA	DO	SO	Total	
Worm-eating Warbler					1		1		1		1		4	
Northern Waterthrush					1	1		1	1	1		3	8	
Blue-winged Warbler					3				1	1		1	6	
Black-and-white Warbler	2	2	3	22	1	8	10	30	14	14	24		130	
Prothonotary Warbler					1							1		
Tennessee Warbler					1	1	1		3		1	6	13	
Nashville Warbler					2	3		1	2				8	
Connecticut Warbler									1				1	
Kentucky Warbler							1						1	
Common Yellowthroat	7		17	72	7	34	36	36	19	25	62	1	316	
Hooded Warbler						5	3				2		10	
American Redstart	6		7	48	5	30	20	52	49	26	71		314	
Cape May Warbler	2		2			1		2			3		10	
Northern Parula			3	16	7	5	10	32	16	11	21		121	
Magnolia Warbler	1	10	52	7	10	4	26	4	11	21			146	
Bay-breasted Warbler					1	2	1	2	1		2		9	
Blackburnian Warbler					2	2	1		1	1	1	2	10	
Yellow Warbler			1			1	2	1		1	2	11	19	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3		2	14	1	4	2	8	1	3	2		40	
Blackpoll Warbler						1	1				2		4	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	3	2	11			3	6					26	
Palm Warbler	1		1	4	3	23	3	3	4	3	2		47	
Pine Warbler			1	2	4	1	1	13	4	8	26	99	2	161
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)	1		2	1					6				10	
Yellow-throated Warbler							3						3	
Prairie Warbler					2				1		3		6	
Black-throated Green Warbler	2	1	10	16	1	1	1	2	1	1	3		39	
Canada Warbler								2			1		3	
Wilson's Warbler	1				1								2	
unidentified warbler			5		36	10	1				4		56	
Summer Tanager							1	9	3		18		31	
Scarlet Tanager	9	4	4	9	2	6	8	15	2	3	4		66	
Northern Cardinal	61	21	136	521	71	169	154	206	138	51	91	6	1625	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	2	2	2	3		7	2		4	5		29	
Blue Grosbeak					7	3	33	9	6	35	14	32	139	
Indigo Bunting					4	31	6	77	11	52	24	4	17	226
Dickcissel								1			1		2	



**Dovekie field sketch by Diane Ford**

Charcoal and watercolor. Assateague Island, Worcester County, Maryland, February 2012.

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**Razorbill field sketch by Diane Ford**

Watercolor and graphite pencil. Ocean City Inlet, Worcester County, Maryland, 15 February 2015.

**MARYLAND BIRDLIFE**  
**NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS**

Contributors should prepare manuscripts according to the following instructions.

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***Maryland Birdlife*** is published twice annually to record and encourage the study of birds in and around Maryland. ***Maryland Birdlife*** contains original articles, notes, and research papers primarily pertaining to Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic region. Potential topics may include geographic or temporal distribution, ecology, biology, morphology, systematics, behavior, migration, life history, as well as other biological topics. Annual bird counts also will be published. All submissions are subject to editorial review and acceptance. Articles and research papers will be peer-reviewed. Send submissions to the Editor: Eugene J. Scarpulla, 14207 Lakerun Court, Bowie, MD 20720-4861, ejscarp@comcast.net.

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